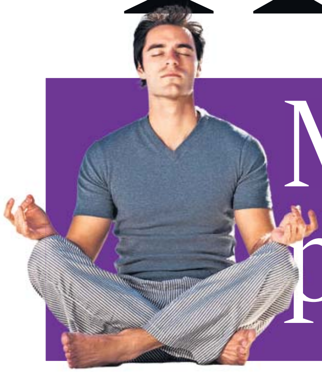
THE TIMES

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Mindfulness: how to do it properly and feel better Times2



Plant a tree for a loved one
For details, see page 20

DINENDRA HARIA/LNP



Ambushed The Princess of Wales made a surprise visit to the Chelsea Flower Show, where children asked her some unexpectedly challenging questions. Reports, page 5

Green quango blamed for blocking new homes

Plans for 160,000 properties fall foul of Natural England rules

Tom Witherow

The green quango Natural England has been accused of blocking 160,000 new homes and helping to push housebuilding to its lowest level since the 1920s.

The Home Builders Federation (HBF) has warned that Natural England's actions, and recent changes to planning policy, threaten to reduce the number of new homes from 240,000 a year in 2018-19 to 111,000 by 2025.

Rules imposed by Natural England, the agency within the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs responsible for protecting the landscape, have led 74 councils to block developments that could not show they would not pollute water systems.

Housebuilding is expected to be a dividing line at the next election after Sir Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, promised in an interview with The Times last week to build on the green belt.

The "nutrient neutrality" guidelines, which originated from a 2018 European Court of Justice ruling, have blocked 120,000 new homes so far, according to the HBF. To get planning permission in affected areas, developers must show that new homes will not lead to more phosphates and nitrates running into rivers, feeding dangerous algae and toxic bacteria that stifle ecosystems.

Housebuilders believe that they are being unfairly punished and farmers, who produce large quantities of the nutrients from fertilisers and animal slurry, are excluded from the rules. Offsetting schemes, which turn agricultural land into new woodland and wetlands that suck up nutrients, can cost tens of thousands of pounds for a single home, making developments impracticable or pushing up house prices.

There are also not enough schemes. Ben Houchen, the mayor of Tees Valley, said that developers would need to offset an area "the size of Scotland" to meet demand for homes.

Natural England is also blocking an estimated 40,000 homes through "water neutrality" rules, which control abstraction of drinking water, and "recreational impact zones", which have stopped homes because of fears that an influx of people could damage habitats.

This equates to a total of 160,000 new homes held back, a quarter of which would be affordable, the HBF said.

The HBF, which represents 80 per cent of the industry in England and Wales, said the economy had suffered

Continued on page 2

Emails about Braverman's fine could cause U-turn

Steven Swinford Political Editor
Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor
Oliver Wright Policy Editor
Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor

Officials raised concerns about Suella Braverman's conduct over a speeding fine in emails sent to the Cabinet Office, it has emerged, as questions are asked about her future.

Rishi Sunak is considering the emails as he weighs up an independent investigation into claims that the home secretary breached the ministerial code.

Braverman is said to have asked civil servants in September last year to help her to avoid a speeding fine and points on her licence by arranging a private driving awareness course. Officials were so concerned about the request that they emailed the propriety and ethics team in the Cabinet Office to ask whether it was appropriate. They were instructed to disregard the request.

The emails are at odds with claims from Braverman's allies, who say she asked civil servants only for advice. The Times has been told that the officials are explicit that Braverman asked them to arrange the course, potentially breaching both the civil service code of conduct and the ministerial code.

A supporter of Braverman said the officials had contacted the Cabinet Office as a matter of "due process" to establish whether they could help her.

Sunak will risk enraging MPs on the right of the Conservative Party if he refers Braverman to Sir Laurie Magnus, the independent adviser on ministerial interests. Allies have argued that she is the victim of a smear campaign.

One said Sunak was in danger of making "a mountain out of a molehill" and a Tory MP warned that Braverman would "machinegun" Sunak from the backbenches if she was forced to quit. However, Tobias Ellwood, a senior MP from the centrist One Nation wing of the Tory party, told Times Radio that ministers should not "pull strings" to "cover up what you're doing".

Sunak told the Commons yesterday that he had requested "further information" and would give an update in due course.

Braverman has insisted that she did not break ministerial rules. She said: "I

Continued on page 6

IN THE NEWS

Junk food advert ban
Voters overwhelmingly back tougher bans on junk food advertising to help tackle obesity. In a poll, 80 per cent supported laws to stop advertising to children. **Page 4**

Starmer's NHS vow
Sir Keir Starmer has promised to pump more money into the NHS if Labour wins the next election, in exchange for "serious, deep, long-term" reforms. **Page 7**

Madeleine search
A new search for Madeleine McCann will begin today at a reservoir that was a favourite location of the convicted rapist suspected of her murder. **Page 9**

Attack inside Russia
Fighters backed by tanks and claiming to represent an anti-Putin militia stormed checkpoints on the Russian border before overrunning three villages. **Page 26**

Meta fined €1.2bn
Meta, the owner of Facebook, has been fined €1.2 billion for breaching EU data privacy rules, and given a six-month deadline to stop transferring data to the US. **Page 31**

Gundogan pursued
Arsenal will try to sign Ilkay Gundogan, who as Manchester City captain lifted the Premier League trophy on Sunday, on a free transfer. **Page 60**

VISIT…

LANZAROTE Caliente.com

Today's highlights



7.35am **Lisa Nandy**, right, shadow housing secretary
11am Matt Chorley examines why post-Brexit rules aren't reducing illegal immigration
2pm Ed Vaizey chats to **Lorraine Candy**, former editor-in-chief of Elle, about her book What's Wrong With Me?: 101 Things Midlife Women Need to Know
3.35pm Jane Garvey and Fi Glover talk to the Norwegian crime writer **Jo Nesbo**
8.35pm **Brian Barwick**, former CEO of the FA

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TODAY'S EDITION

NEWS



SOUND AND FURY
Locals battle to stop 'Glasto in the Cotswolds'
PAGE 13

SPORT



GOOD GAME
Sledging is less nasty, and cricket is better for it
PAGE 53

TIMES2



WHAT NEXT?
How Phillip Schofield can bounce back
PAGES 2-3

55 days since Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was detained in Russia
#FreeEvan



BBC presenter's painful illness

The BBC presenter Naga Munchetty has revealed that she is often left screaming in agony by adenomyosis, a debilitating womb condition that has caused her a "lifetime of pain". **Page 11**

Rush to spend 'illegal' cash

A spending frenzy has started in India as millions of people are desperate to get rid of their stashes of 2,000 rupee notes, worth about £20 each, before they become illegal tender. **Page 28**

City boss guilty of Ponzi scam

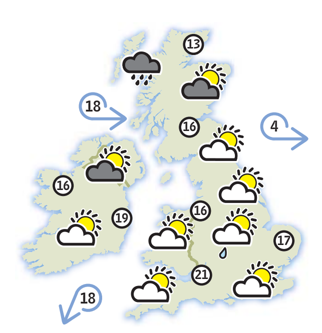
A City boss once likened to the Wolf of Wall Street has been convicted of a £70 million fraud that promised investors a "remarkable" 60 per cent annual return. **Page 31**

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THE WEATHER



Cloudy and damp in the far northwest, mostly dry elsewhere and sunny periods. **Full forecast, page 49**

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Hunt urges food producers to do more to reduce rising costs

Oliver Wright Policy Editor

Jeremy Hunt will warn Britain's food manufacturers today that they need to do more to bring down prices, amid fears that a lack of competition in the sector is fuelling inflation.

The chancellor is due to meet representatives of some of the country's biggest producers and he will call on them to "do what they can" to support consumers.

However, in a move that will be seen as a direct challenge to the sector, Hunt also will meet with the competition regulator to discuss what measures it can take if it is "dissatisfied with the level of competition".

The Treasury said Hunt wanted it to be "easier" for consumers to compare the prices of products and that the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) was reviewing the prominence of unit pricing both in-store and online in the groceries sector.

The move comes as the Office for National Statistics prepares to release its latest inflation update. Ministers are hoping it will show the headline rate of inflation has fallen from 10.1 per cent in March to just over 8 per cent last month.

There are concerns in the government that, despite falling energy prices, inflation is becoming ingrained in the economy, making it harder to meet Rishi Sunak's pledge to bring it down to 2 per cent. Ministers are particularly worried about food inflation, which rose to 19.2 per cent last month.

"We want to know when we're going to see food prices falling," a government source said. Labour successfully made the cost of living central to its local election campaign this month and ministers are nervous that the government is not being seen to do enough.

"High food prices are proving stubborn, so we need to understand what's driving that," Hunt said. "That's why I'm asking industry to work with us … to help to ease the pressure on household budgets."

This month at a meeting in the Treasury, supermarkets told ministers they believed food prices had peaked and would start falling. Officials are understood to believe that the supermarket sector itself is competitive, but there is more concern around wholesale prices.

"Supermarkets in Britain are highly competitive, but the same is not necessarily true of the wholesale sector," a government source said. The Treasury said that as "crucial players in the supply chain to supermarkets", Hunt wanted to "better understand the challenges firms are grappling with as inflated prices … plague the economy".

"The chancellor will ask food manufacturers to do what they can to support consumers," it said. At the same time Hunt will warn of greater regulation from the competition watchdog if producers are seen to be profiting by not passing on the falling cost of energy.

"The chancellor will meet with the CMA to discuss the scope of their investigations," the Treasury said. "The government wants it to be easier for consumers to compare the prices of products and the CMA is currently reviewing the use of unit pricing."

Last week the authority said it had found evidence that petrol retailers had increased fuel prices to unnecessarily high levels.

Compensation for child abuse victims

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

Thousands of victims of institutional child abuse will be paid compensation of up to £100,000 as part of a national redress scheme.

All victims who were abused in care homes, places of worship, hospitals and schools will be invited to apply.

Rishi Sunak acknowledged that "nothing will make up for how badly they were let down or the abuse that they suffered" but said that he hoped it would ensure victims get the "support they need and redress they deserve".

The scheme will be modelled on recommendations put forward by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) in October after it heard from nearly 6,000 victims.

Government sources said that the scheme would pay out hundreds of millions of pounds to victims over five years but it was impossible to put a firm estimate on the cost due to uncertainty over who would come forward.

It will be based on a national redress scheme run by the Australian government, in which the average payout so far has been about £60,000.

A single financial scheme was preferred to an alternative criminal compensation or civil litigation for all victims by the IICSA to make it easier to access for victims. It recommended a "modest" flat-rate payment for victims who do not want to recount in detail their experiences, with a second payment for those who wish to provide more details with the level depending on the victim's age, the duration of the abuse and its impact on them.

The inquiry said that voluntary contributions should be sought from non-state institutions and their insurers to help to fund the project.

Suella Braverman, the home secretary, said that she hoped the scheme would bring "some finality" and "some closure" to the abuse suffered by thousands of people.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

160,000 new homes blocked

to the tune of £27 billion, and that 500,000 fewer jobs were being supported thanks to Natural England.

Natural England expanded nutrient neutrality rules in February last year, more than doubling the areas to which they apply. Michael Gove, the housing secretary, has rushed out measures to break the deadlock, including £30 million in funding to design nutrient mitigation schemes and plans for a legal duty on water companies to upgrade wastewater treatment works by 2030.

Conservative politicians argue, however, that this response shows Gove has failed to grasp the scale of the problem. Simon Clarke, Gove's predecessor, said: "The real causes of the water pollution problems are poor farming practices and our Victorian sewage system. Housebuilding is a peripheral contributor … We should legislate to exclude new homes from the regulations, get the water companies to up their game."

Houchen said the rules had put 30,000 homes in South Tees, North Yorkshire and Durham at risk. "It seems the government has little control over Natural England," he said.

The HBF said: "Ministers' decision to cave in to the nimby lobby and … Natural England represent another blow to our efforts to tackle the housing crisis.

"The health of our rivers is being threatened by agricultural practices and the shocking failure of water companies, but the government's response is to block housebuilding. Four years into this fiasco, these bans on growth are having stark social and economic impacts and threaten to widen the ever-growing intergenerational divide."

A spokesman for the government said: "We must protect the environment and improve water quality while delivering the housing this country needs. We're working closely with planning authorities affected by nutrient neutrality to provide more support and looking at what more we can do to mitigate nutrient pollution. These schemes will deliver clearer routes for developers in tackling nutrient pollution, and unlock construction of new sustainable homes."

Behind the story

Lake District swimmers warned of blue-green algae as "toxic as cobra venom" and Devon dog walkers told to keep pets on leads to avoid poisonous ponds. These are just some of the results of algal blooms, boosted by nutrients from household waste water and farms (Tom Witherow writes).

Even after the products of kitchens, bathrooms and lavatories have been treated, close to 2kg of phosphates and nitrates enter water systems per home per year. Fast-growing algae can suck oxygen from the water, killing ecosystems, or boost toxic cyanobacteria that threaten livestock, pets and human swimmers.

However, instead of tackling water companies and farmers, Natural England — the arm of the Department for Environment leading the response — has been accused of "blocking" new homes, leading building to "dry up".

Local leaders say rules telling councils to grant planning applications only when developers can prove they would not add nutrients to the soil were applied overnight and without consultation.

"It has been devastating. People have closed businesses, people have lost jobs, there are schools that are struggling to get children because families are not coming to live in those homes," said Merry Albright, a developer in Herefordshire and a member of the local council's nutrient management board. "These are rural areas that rely on that investment, council tax and cash from new-homes bonuses. I feel really sad."

ALAMY







Faroe and away, the best movie set

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

When Torfinnur Jakupsson returned to a teenage daydream, after an interval of 16 years and having realised it was now or never, he set about shining the world's spotlights on his native Faroe Islands.

Now, two decades after a coffee break from work at a fish factory, he finds himself leading a drive to put the Danish collection of 18 islands 200 miles north of Britain on the production map, helping to cement it as an emerging force in television and film.

"When I was 16 and working in the fish factory, I told my friend how cool it would be to do a Faroe noir, like those we knew from Sweden and Denmark, and questioned why nothing like that had ever been done," Jakupsson said. "After our coffee break, we went back to work and 16 years passed by before I said to myself, 'It's now or never.'"

He returned home after a decade in London, studying and working in creative media, and the result was the 39-year-old Jakupsson's debut drama, *Trom*. Initially broadcast on Faroe's national broadcaster to the island's 50,000 or so residents last year, it subsequently was picked up in the Nordic countries and was broadcast on BBC4 and the iPlayer last year.

Adapted from the novels of Jogvan Isaksen, a Faroese author, the first Faroe-noir series follows a journalist who receives a message from a daughter that he did not know he had saying that her life is in danger.

The Times described it as "fantastically atmospheric … full of sweeping shots of snow-capped mountains, foreboding seas and gun-metal skies", while praising its tension, menace — and knitwear.



Torfinnur Jakupsson got the idea for his award-winning series Trom during a coffee break while working at a fish factory as a teenager



It is not the only project to have tapped into the islands' stunning scenery. While Jakupsson was working up his idea, James Bond's location manager had earmarked it for the climactic sequences in *No Time To Die*.

In 2019 Kalsoy Island was renamed Poison Island, was moved thousands of miles east to a place between Russia and Japan and was used as the backdrop to Daniel Craig's demise as 007 after Bond had been caught in a M16 missile strike. The following year the destination acted as Neverland in the remake of *Peter Pan and Wendy* of Disney+, the streaming service

"The Faroes are becoming used more and more as a backdrop for bigger projects," Jakupsson said, "partly because it has never been shown on screen before. It was only a few years ago that we had to explain where we were on the map, but *Trom*'s international success has helped to make us a lot more visible."

He added that his ambition was twofold: to continue to play host to A-list Hollywood projects, while also nurturing local storytelling.

So how does Faroe noir differ from its more familiar Nordic siblings? "As a culture, we have always sat around the fireplace telling spooky and dramatic stories," Jakupsson said. "We also have a tradition of folk ballads with huge numbers of verses that tell stories about brutal deaths and wars."

A second series of *Trom* is in the works, with Jakupsson's Gro Studios also working up a pan-Nordic geopolitical thriller centered on the unlikely role of the Faroe Islands in securing the stability of the North Atlantic and the Arctic region, and a legal drama about economic collapse, mass emigration and secession from the Danish kingdom, according to Deadline, the entertainment industry news website.

As a former occupier of the islands during the Second World War, Britain is a primary potential source of funding thanks to the shared "familial history", Jakupsson believes.

"Even though no one believed in what I was doing at the beginning, I knew there was the chance of it was becoming something," he said. "I viewed the fact that nothing had happened here before as a good selling point rather than a negative.

"I hope to have contributed to something that can become much bigger and inspire a new generation of Faroese storytelling that has never been seen before.

"Danish drama is among the best in the world, but we want to highlight that we are our own force among the Nordic countries."



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GUY BELL/ALAMY



Oil thrill Art treasures that belonged to the billionaires Ann and Gordon Getty are up for sale at Christie's. The sale, named The Temple of Wings after the couple's Greco-Roman style home in California, includes Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema's A Coign of Vantage and Frederic Leighton's The Bath of Psyche. The auctions are in June

Voters have a large appetite for laws curbing junk food adverts

Eleanor Hayward
Health Correspondent

Voters overwhelmingly support the imposition of tougher curbs on junk food to tackle obesity, research shows.

Eighty per cent of adults back the idea of new laws to prevent the advertising of unhealthy food to children on television and online, according to a YouGov poll for the Obesity Health Alliance.

In the survey of 2,037 adults, 58 per cent said councils should use planning laws to prevent fast-food shops opening in their area. There was 68 per cent support for expanding the sugar tax on soft drinks to cover crisps, biscuits and milkshakes and most respondents said funds raised through these levies should go towards schemes that directly help children's health, such as sports clubs.

The sugar tax, introduced in 2018, adds 18p per litre to the price of soft drinks with more than 5g of sugar per 100ml. It is considered to have been a successful policy.

The Obesity Health Alliance, a coalition of health charities and campaign groups, said "bold action" was essential to "build on the success" of the sugar levy and reduce pressure on the NHS.

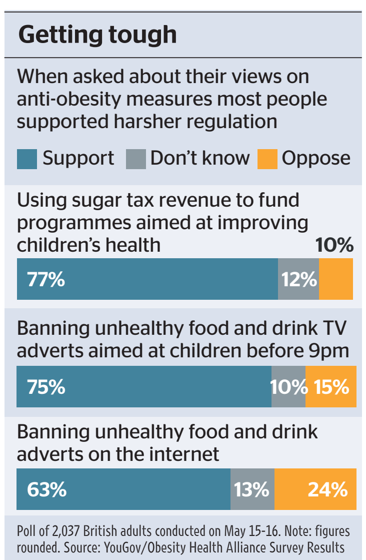
Two thirds of adults in England are overweight or obese, which is driving record levels of long-term sickness in the UK, with 2.6 million people off work. The NHS spends twice as much on obese patients per year as those of a healthy weight because of obesity-related conditions such as type 2 diabetes.

Conservative governments have resisted interventionist policies, amid unease about imposing taxes on food and fears of "nanny statism". Sir Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, has promised to ban advertising junk food to children on television and via social media. Campaigners have written to all the big political parties saying it is "crystal clear" that the public would support such measures.

Katharine Jenner, director of the Obesity Health Alliance, said the next prime minister must "address Britain's obesity crisis and redesign a broken food system that puts profit before health".

Ben Reynolds, of Sustain, a food and farming charity, said: "Our country is flooded with unhealthy food. If it was as simple as 'eat less and move more', we wouldn't have a health crisis. The public are clear [about] their appetite for government intervention to put health first."

Restrictions on junk food advertising, initially due to come in this year, have been pushed back to 2025 after a series of delays and a plan unveiled by Boris Johnson to ban buy-one-get-one-free deals has been scrapped.



Give us 49% rise or we'll strike all summer, say junior doctors

Eleanor Hayward

Junior doctors have vowed to "strike throughout the summer" after upping their pay demand to 49 per cent during negotiations with the government.

The British Medical Association announced another 72-hour strike for June, blindsiding health officials who had been involved in three weeks of intensive pay talks.

Ministers had agreed to offer the union a pay rise in the region of 5 per cent, the same deal offered to nurses and paramedics, in a hope of bringing the dispute to the end.

However the BMA refused to back down on its starting position of a 35 per cent pay rise. In discussions over a multi-year pay deal ending in 2025, the union said that it would only accept a pay rise of 49 per cent on current levels, according to a health source.

BMA leaders said that the government's 5 per cent pay offer was "in no way credible or even reasonable" and pledged to keep striking every month until their current mandate runs out in August. The next strike date, from 7am on Wednesday June 14 to 7am on Saturday June 17, will provide no exemptions for doctors in A&E or cancer care, which NHS leaders fear will put lives at risk.

It follows a four-day junior doctors strike in April and a three-day strike in March, which between them caused 370,000 appointments and operations to be cancelled.

The BMA had agreed to pause strikes to enter into talks with the Department of Health, which have been ongoing since the beginning of the month, following a breakthrough with other NHS unions which voted to accept the government's pay deal.

The BMA Junior Doctors Committee said that they had called the June strike as talks were "currently unproductive", adding: "And if the government doesn't change their position, we will strike throughout the summer."

The government said it was disappointed, adding that the strikes "will be hugely disruptive for patients and put pressure on other NHS staff".

Quintagram® No 1635

Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only

1 --- Sharp, *Vanity Fair* protagonist (5)
_ _ _ _ _

2 Scrap of food (6)
_ _ _ _ _ _

3 Unfriendly, unwelcoming (6)
_ _ _ _ _ _

4 Long open-fronted porch area (7)
_ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Follower of a Protestant church (8)
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	B	C	D	E	E
E	E	F	H	K	L	L	M
N	N	O	O	R	R	R	R
S	S	T	T	U	V	Y	Y

Solutions T2 MindGames p15
Cryptic clues T2 MindGames p14

Dentists desert NHS

The number of dentists working in the NHS in England has fallen, according to data obtained by the British Dental Association. It found that 23,577 dentists carried out NHS work in the 2022-23 financial year, down from 24,272 the previous year. The number last fell below 24,000, apart from during the pandemic, in 2014-15. The BDA said the government should "drop any pretence that NHS dentistry is on the road to recovery, and finally deliver a meaningful rescue package".

WhatsApp edit tweak

WhatsApp users will be able to amend messages up to 15 minutes after they have sent them. Messages that have been altered will have an "edited" notification displayed, but the edit history will not be shown. The new feature should become available to all users in the coming weeks, and brings the app into line with its competitors.

'Killer teacher's PTSD'

A primary school teacher accused of murder has post-traumatic stress disorder, Northampton crown court was told. Fiona Beal, 49, may have developed the condition due to "coercive control" by Nicholas Billingham, 42, who was killed by a stab wound and buried in the garden in 2021, Dr John Cordwell, said. Beal, of Northampton, denies murder. The trial continues.

Delay fear for students

Graduations may be delayed, University of Cambridge leaders have said, unless talks over staff pay are restarted "urgently" to resolve a marking boycott that began at 145 universities on April 20. The University and College Union warned that, without a resolution, "a national degree scandal" could result.

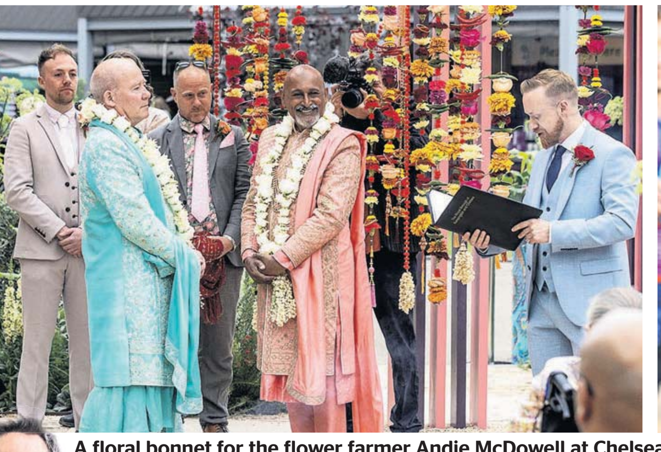
Souness fights tears

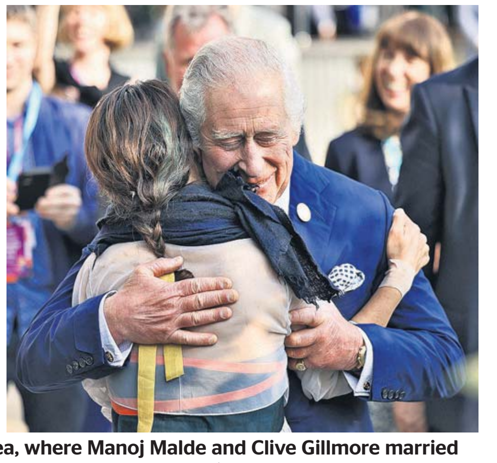
The football pundit Graeme Souness choked back tears as he spoke of tackling a charity swim across the Channel. Souness, 70, hopes to raise £1.1 million for children with epidermolysis bullosa, an incurable skin condition. On the BBC's *Breakfast*, he said of the sufferers: "You must wake up every morning and say, 'Why me?'"

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE

Charles seeks Chelsea tips to keep nibbling bunnies at bay







A floral bonnet for the flower farmer Andie McDowell at Chelsea, where Manoj Malde and Clive Gillmore married and the King had a hug for Jihae Hwang. Keeley Hawes and Matthew Macfadyen, the acting couple, were also there



Lucy Bannerman

The King received a warm hug yesterday from a Korean artist who overcame illness to create a Chelsea show garden, celebrating the medicinal plants of her homeland.

Jihae Hwang chatted with the King as they sat together in the traditional herb-drying tower that is the main feature of her healing garden, recreating the landscape of the Jiri Mountains.

She initially had asked one of the design team if she would be allowed to hug Charles, but was told that it would be a breach of royal protocol. When the King became aware of her request, however, he happily agreed.

Hwang is a previous winner of a gold medal who is returning to the flower show after a long absence and what she previously has described as a "life-altering" health diagnosis" in 2015. The aim of her garden, A Letter from A Million Years Past is to celebrate the 1,500 species of native Korean plants that are believed to have medicinal value.

As he toured the showgrounds, Charles also revealed that not even the royal gardens at Highgrove were immune from pests: he was keeping an eye out for new plants to replace ones at his Gloucestershire home that had been ruined by rabbits.

When he stopped at the designer Jane Porter's garden, Choose Love, a lavender sage plant — *Salvia lavandulifolia* — with delicate purple flowers caught his eye. The designer created the garden for the Choose Love charity, which supports asylum seekers worldwide, and features plants such as an old variety of roses from the Middle East and irises from north Africa that those seeking sanctuary would recognise.

She said: "He was really interested in one of the plants we've got because at Highgrove something's being eaten by rabbits and he wants to replace it.

"I love that, that's brilliant, he's such a keen gardener. I'm sure he would have his eye out for all sorts of things. He was very knowledgeable about everything in the garden."

The Queen did her own separate tour of the showgrounds, dashing into the London Square Community Garden designed by James Smith to try out a large swing seat in dappled shade.

"This is just right to take the weight off your feet. I can't resist," she said.

She was accompanied by her sister, Annabel Elliot, son-in-law Harry Lopes and daughter Laura Lopes, who at one point excitedly invited her over, calling "Mum, Mum" to show her some natural beehives displayed by The Newt, a hotel in Somerset.

Camilla, a keen apiarist, commented: "They're wonderful."

After completing their separate tours, the King and Queen reunited to present new medals in memory of Elizabeth II.

They presented the first three recipients of the Elizabeth Medal of Honour: the influential Dutch garden designer Piet Oudolf; Baroness Fookes, who is a champion of horticulture in parliament; and the environmental champion Judy Ling Wong.

The Elizabeth Medal of Honour, which will be confined to a maximum of 70 recipients at any one time in recognition of the length of the late Queen's reign, will join the Victoria Medal of Honour, established in 1897, with the consent of Queen Victoria, to allow the Royal Horticultural Society Council to honour horticulture's finest.

The King and Queen also met a gay couple who had married earlier that day in the first wedding to be held at the flower show. Camilla offered "many congratulations" to Clive Gillmore, 58, garden maintenance expert at the RHS, and his new husband, the garden designer Manoj Malde, 55.

The King suggested they ought to be out celebrating. "You probably should be dashing off somewhere. Well done," he said, smiling.

Earlier, during a surprise appearance at the show, the Princess of Wales drew doodles of insects with schoolchildren and answered a couple of unexpectedly challenging questions about the purpose of the royal family.

While tradition usually preserves the first day of Chelsea for celebrities and television personalities to waft fragrantly around the showgrounds, for the first time this year schoolchildren were also invited to take part. Kate chatted with children from ten schools, in support of the Royal Horticultural Society's campaign for school gardening, which aims to engage youngsters with the benefits of creating their own green spaces.

They also questioned her on what members of the royal family actually did. Pressed by one child, the princess said: "They help support all the different people in the country, showcase all the amazing work being done and look after everyone."

One curious child asked if she made the law, but she told her: "The prime minister makes the laws."

Jackie Flatt, teacher at Falconbrook Primary School, in Battersea, south London, said the visit was particularly poignant for the schoolchildren, as the green space around their own school had been destroyed recently.

"Where we live, it's all concrete everywhere," she said. "There's nothing like this. We had trees beside the school, but they have all just been cut down because of building development. It's sad, because the children have nothing like this."

When some of the schoolchildren asked for Kate's autograph, she drew doodles of plants and insects instead. She drew a flower for Ruby Mann, seven, a tree for another girl and a pond surrounded by plants for a third child. She explained why she had drawn pictures instead of writing her name: "I'm not allowed to write my signature, it's just one of those rules."

There's plenty to quietly admire, but little to make your heart sing

Stephen Anderton
Review



I don't suppose anyone visiting the Chelsea show this year would fail to find a garden they liked, but on the other hand they would be hard-pressed to find one that bowled them over. The heart-strings weren't zing-zinging.

The nearest thing to heart-lifting was Sarah Price's Mediterranean-style garden (The Nurture Landscapes Garden) in the shade of flat-topped stone pines populated with those wonderful old-fashioned irises bred by the painter Cedric Morris, a cantata of grey, sand, yellow and plum. "Best in Show," someone said, "or too middle-class?"

If they're right, then maybe most popular would be Mark Gregory's walled kitchen garden (The Savills Garden), complete with feasting Chelsea pensioners, a triumph of craftsmanship. But then so was Cleve West's gardened piece of waste ground (The Centrepoint Garden), which felt as truly loved and owned as any piece of waste ground could ever be. Its fallen tree was incorporated into the plan. Its dandelions and nettles felt right, not righteous. The goose grass (Cleve's cleavers) — well, you try transplanting goose grass and making it look good.

Jihae Hwang's Korean garden (A Letter from a Million Years Past) was exquisitely planted with foreign weeds that nobody would know were weeds: another quiet green garden, green in every sense but without anyone alleging it was home to beavers, like last year's noisy claims.



Jihae Hwang used weeds that no one knew were weeds

Even the formal gardens were quiet. Andrew Wilson and Gavin McWilliam's garden of remembrance (Memoria and GreenAcres Transcendence Garden) had every right to be calm and it was a noble gesture, tall white poppies resisting the breeze under a sobering canopy of honey locust trees and finally a pale River Styx and cool monumental light beyond. But almost more sobering is the fact that most of the so-called Sanctuary Gardens looked terribly samey: a pool of seating space, with water, wrapped by planting. Not unreasonable. Well, maybe all gardens are sanctuaries. Time to let that show category go.

The displays in the great marquee continue to shrink as the cost of exhibiting increases, but still there were thrills in there for plant lovers. Several stands of immaculate hole-free hostas stood out (almost-black and dark green "Orange Star" and the vast tongues of "Jade Cascade"), as well as agapanthus being sold unusually as tiny plug plants.

‘Blindsided’ Sunak at a crossroads

Steven Swinford Political Editor
Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

Rishi Sunak’s 18-hour flight from Japan touched down in Britain shortly before 2am, but he was back at his desk in No 10 only a few hours later.

His priorities for the week were already piling up: a huge rise in legal migration numbers, the latest inflation figures and an announcement on NHS waiting lists.

Top of the agenda was the future of Suella Braverman, his home secretary, over claims she asked civil servants to help her to avoid a speeding fine and points on her driving licence — a potential breach of the ministerial code.

The revelation had caught Sunak and No 10 by surprise. The prime minister appeared irritated at a press conference at the G7 in Hiroshima as he found himself fending off questions about Braverman instead of the summit.

Shortly after returning to No 10, Sunak met Sir Laurie Magnus, his independent adviser on minister’s interests, to discuss whether Braverman should face a formal investigation into whether she had broken the ministerial code.

Braverman was fined for speeding last June, when she was attorney-general. She was offered the choice of paying the fine and receiving three points or attending a driving awareness course. Braverman, 43, initially chose the latter and booked herself on to an online course, which she would have attended over a video call with others.

After a summer of political tumult, Braverman was promoted to home secretary under Liz Truss. In September, she is said to have asked civil servants to help to secure her a private one-to-one session with an instructor instead.

Braverman is said to have raised concerns with officials about appearing on camera with her name on the screen, suggesting that doing so would “generate significant media interest”.

The request made officials feel deeply uneasy amid concerns that it would represent a breach of both the civil service code and the ministerial code.

Q&A

What is the ministerial code and what has Suella Braverman done that might breach it?
The code sets out the standards the prime minister expects of his team and was refreshed last year when Rishi Sunak promised “integrity, professional and accountability”. The most relevant clause is that “ministers must ensure no conflict arises, or appears to arise, between public duties and private interests”.

Labour says asking for help to help get special treatment over the fine appears to breach this.

Where does the civil service code fit into this?
The ministerial code also says ministers must not “ask civil servants to act in any way which would conflict with the civil service code”. That says civil servants must not “misuse your official position . . . to further your private interests or those of others”. Labour says that Braverman may have breached this by asking officials to help with her personal speeding ticket.



Who decides if Braverman is guilty?
The prime minister. The independent adviser on ministerial interests, Sir Laurie Magnus, can be asked to investigate and reach a conclusion, but ultimately it rests with Sunak. Possible penalties including “some form of public apology, remedial action, or loss of salary for a period”.

How important is Braverman?
Keeping the standard-bearer of the right in the cabinet binds her to Sunak’s priorities.

The civil service code says officials must not “act in a way that unjustifiably favours or discriminates against particular individuals or interests”. The ministerial code states that ministers should avoid conflicts between their public and private duties and should not ask officials to “act in any way which would conflict with the civil service code”.

Allies of Braverman say she asked officials for advice rather than asked them to arrange a one-to-one course. However, The Times has been told officials were so concerned that they emailed the Cabinet Office’s propriety and ethics team to ask how to proceed, stating that they had been asked to arrange the course. The response was clear: intervening on the home secretary’s behalf would be inappropriate and would represent a potential breach of the civil service code.

Braverman then turned to political aides. However, they were unsuccessful in their discussions with the course provider and in the end Braverman decided to pay the fine and take the points.

Sunak is said to have been “completely blindsided” by the revelations at the weekend. Senior government sources said he was concerned about the potential of breaches of the ministerial code on several fronts and that there were also questions about why Braverman had failed to inform the Cabinet Office about the penalty. She insists there was no need for her to tell the Cabinet Office because officials had raised the issue when they articulated their concerns.

There are further concerns in government about the approach of those around Braverman. In April, one aide denied she had received a speeding fine, describing the suggestion as “nonsense”.

Braverman broke her silence, expressing her “regret” for speeding but insisting she had not broken the rules. She declined to address the question of whether she had asked officials to arrange a private speed awareness course and said she was confident that nothing untoward had taken place.

That confidence did not appear to be shared by Sunak. At 12.20pm, the home secretary attended a meeting in No 10 with the prime minister on small boats. The meeting wrapped up shortly after 1pm and Braverman then held a one-to-one meeting with Sunak about the circumstances surrounding the speeding offence. By the end of the meeting, Sunak asked for further information.

Reeves unveils plan to force pension funds to back Britain

Labour is ready to force pension funds to invest in fast-growing British science and technology companies as part of a planned £50 billion “future growth fund” (Oliver Wright writes).

On a visit to the United States, Rachel Reeves, the shadow chancellor, said she wanted to change the culture of Britain’s pensions savings industry, which has steered away from high-risk, high-reward investments.

Reeves, who visited the New York Stock Exchange, said the additional capital could help to persuade British companies to list in London.

At present, although the UK has been successful in nurturing start-up companies, many have relocated to America and ultimately have been listed on US exchanges because of the difficulty in raising capital in Britain.

Reeves said she also wanted pension funds to work alongside the state-owned British Business Bank to improve the country’s “start-up, scale-up” landscape, with Labour warning that Britain was trying to do “capitalism without capital”.

Reeves told the Financial Times: “A lack of confidence in Britain’s economy has led to too many businesses leaving our shores.” She



Braverman’s allies losing patience

Continued from page 1

was speeding. I regret that. I paid the fine and I took the points, but we’re focused now on delivering for the British people and working for them.”

She did not deny having asked officials for help in trying to arrange a one-to-one speed awareness course for her so she would not have to join other drivers on the programme, which allows people with minor offences to avoid points on their licence.

Asked repeatedly in the Commons whether she had asked for a private course to be arranged, Braverman insisted simply that “at no point did I attempt to evade sanction”.

Braverman was given the fine last June, when she was attorney-general in Boris Johnson’s government. She booked an online driving awareness course, but in September she was promoted to home secretary by Liz Truss, who succeeded Johnson.

She is said to have asked officials to help her avoid attending a course with other drivers at which she would have appeared on camera, raising concerns that it “generate significant media interest”. She also raised undisclosed security concerns, which Sunak has asked for more information about.

Sources close to Braverman, who earns more than £150,000 a year and is driven in a ministerial car, also have said she was concerned that points on her licence would increase her car insurance premium.

Sunak told the Commons: “I have always been clear that, where issues like this are raised, they should be dealt with properly and they should be dealt with professionally.

“Since I have returned from the G7, I have been receiving information on the issues raised, I have met with both the independent adviser and the home secretary. I have asked for further information and I will update on the appropriate course of action in due course.”

There is frustration over Braverman’s behaviour even among some who have been staunch supporters. She was found last year to have breached the ministerial code after sending sensitive government documents to a senior Tory backbencher using her private email address.

She was accused in March this year of breaking ministerial rules by questioning the impartiality of public servants, when an email sent in her name to party members blamed “an activist blob of left-wing lawyers, civil servants and the Labour Party” for blocking efforts to tackle illegal migration.

One Tory MP who backed her for leader last year said: “It’s three strikes now. She’s not stupid, or evil, as a lot of people see her. But she lacks wisdom. I’m glad now she didn’t win.

“She’s f***ed up three times … I think she will find she is a lot more reshufflable than she was.”

Jacob Rees-Mogg, a former Cabinet minister, said there was no need for an investigation. “What goes on in private offices is that a minister is busy, has many things to do and sometimes will ask for something that civil servants can’t do,” he told the *World at One* on BBC Radio 4. “As long as, once they’ve said no, you accept it, then you haven’t done anything wrong.”

Sorry, Rishi, you’re to blame for Braverman, Hugo Rifkind, page 23
Letters to the editor, page 24

Quentin Letts

The speed queen was defiant in Ferrari red

Political Sketch



Back from the G7 meeting, Rishi Sunak strode to the House of Commons to make a serious, butch statement about Ukraine and Russia. “Putin should know that we are not going anywhere,” growled the prime minister. He had bagged £18 billion in trade with Japan, agreed to build fighter jets with Rome and Tokyo and clinched minerals partnerships with the Canadians and Aussies. “The idea that Britain is somehow in retreat from the world stage or that our influence is in decline, I reject utterly,” averred our great helmsman. He even used “insource” as a verb.

To all of which Westminster shrugged and said: “Yes, yes, but what about Suella’s speeding ticket?” The speed queen herself, in a Ferrari-red dress, was next to Sunak for the start of his statement.

The PM gave her a pat on the shoulder. His hand did not linger. It touched her as if tapping the hot bonnet of Mr Toad’s roadster. Braverman had just done an hour of Home Office questions at which her

after minister's lack of awareness

SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES



Rachel Reeves landed in New York to find the Tories claiming her tweets were evidence of double standards

backed a proposal by Nicholas Lyons, the lord mayor of London, to create a £50 billion growth fund, with 5 per cent of every defined-contribution pension scheme's assets invested in it. Lyons has said pension schemes should be forced to make contributions to the fund.

Reeves also outlined plans to improve Britain's economic growth potential by consolidating its fragmented pensions market.

Her proposals would push smaller pension funds to merge to create the scale needed to take on new investments, and include giving the regulator more powers to consolidate.

Yesterday Reeves deleted a tweet that inadvertently revealed she had taken a business-class flight to New York, costing about £4,000. She had intended the tweet to promote her trip to America as part of Labour's move to present itself as a government-in-waiting. However, she included a picture of her British Airways boarding card.

Labour said that the flight had been paid for by a party donor, but declined to identify them.

speeding conviction was repeatedly raised by opposition MPs. Not all Conservatives managed to be helpful. First question of the day was from Paul Howell (Sedgefield), about police recruits stopping antisocial behaviour. Howell praised Braverman for "driving this increase in police numbers". At his unwitting word "driving", Labour MPs cheered.

Owen Thompson (SNP, Midlothian) was soon complaining about the immigration bill being "driven through parliament at breakneck speed". Traffic cameras in fact suggest it may be stuck in heavy traffic in the House of Lords for several weeks.

Emma Lewell-Buck (South Shields) was the first Labour person to tell the home secretary "nobody is above the law". Braverman: "Last summer I was speeding. I regret that. I paid the fine and I took the penalty. At no point did I attempt to evade sanction." Almost a haiku. The words were spoken with care. She seemed to be steering round unseen potholes.

Two shadow ministers, Sarah Jones and Yvette Cooper, asked similar questions. Braverman repeated word-for-word her answer to Lewell-Buck. The SNP's Alison Thewliss now had a bash. Braverman: "Last summer I was speeding …" And so forth. The same words. That dim chap from Slough asked if Braverman had tried to book a "private swede awareness course". It is important to know your root vegetables. Braverman mirthlessly repeated her lines: "Last summer I was speeding …" etc.

The way she intoned them, they could have been the Kyrie eleison. Or maybe the responses in the Prayer Book's litany. By the fifth time she coughed up her recitation, MPs could mouth along to it. Repeated epithets worked for Homer, so why not Suella? Sir Edward Leigh (C, Gainsborough) frowned. The remains of his hair fluffily askew like an eaglet's, Leigh was more concerned about immigration.

On the front bench starting grid beside Braverman sat her Home Office ministers Robert Jenrick (McLaren) and Tom Tugendhat (Red Bull), both also recently clocked by Mr Plod's speed gun. "This government stands on the side of law-abiding citizens!" cried Braverman.

Opposition MPs were unsure whether to become cross with or laugh at Braverman. Why would she not answer detailed questions? If she did ask a mandarin to help her dodge that ticket, what on earth was she thinking? Are ministers not always telling us civil servants are incompetent and will foul up even the smallest task? Or was the real motive the raw fear of finding herself on the same speed awareness course as the Archbishop of Canterbury?

I heard yesterday of a motorist who was done for breaking the speed limit *while en route to a speed-awareness course*. Didn't want to be late, you see.

Meanwhile, my friend Coleman, at the end of his course in Herefordshire, asked the instructor: "If I'm done again for speeding, will you give me a refund?" Earned him a v. dirty look.

Starmer pledges NHS funding boost and wide-ranging reforms

Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor

Sir Keir Starmer has promised to pump more money into the NHS while introducing significant reforms to the service.

Warning that "the NHS is unsustainable unless we make serious, deep, long-term changes", the Labour leader promised to intensify efforts to prevent ill health, beef up care closer to home and improve the use of technology to ease the pressure on hospitals.

Waiting lists would be pooled so that patients could choose to be treated at nearby units that could see them more quickly, Starmer said.

Doctors, NHS bosses and health experts have largely welcomed the plans, but have urged him to be specific on how he would pay for them.

Starmer has been wary of offering detailed spending commitments for fear of leaving himself open to Tory accusations of raising taxes or borrowing levels. He acknowledged that more money would be "part of the answer", saying: "The NHS is always better-funded under Labour."

In a speech in Essex, Starmer said: "Money is part of it, I don't deny that. Like any opposition, we will set out our plans before the election. And, like any incoming government, we will make decisions based on a full appreciation of reality — on the state of the NHS and our public finances."

As part of the spending, he promised "fair pay" for NHS and care staff, but he argued that it was more important to set out a "recipe for reform" to show the NHS could make the most of extra cash, saying he would not "place the NHS on a pedestal and leave it there. I know money makes a difference, but it only gets you so far. You can't look at the problems now and tell me it's just about money. That's not serious."

Promising to make it easier to see a GP and to recruit more social care workers, Starmer said: "We aren't good enough at treating people early in the community. We leave it to hospitals and, quite often, that's too late."

Labour wants to boost mental health treatment and to ban junk food advertising to children, but Starmer said he would not impose sugar or salt taxes until the economy had improved. "We don't want to go down the road of making food more expensive in the middle of a cost of living crisis," he said.

Matthew Taylor, chief executive of the NHS Confederation, said moving care out of hospitals "would undoubtedly be positive for patients. However, we need to understand how Labour would achieve, and fund, such a move." While Starmer was right to say improvement was not solely about cash, Taylor said "money is a hugely significant barrier to improvement and we need to see specifics on what a boost to funding would look like".

As well as pledging to hit all key NHS targets in the first term of a Labour government, Starmer promised to reduce heart deaths by a quarter over a decade, to reverse the rise in suicides and to halve the gap in healthy life expectancy between regions.

Nigel Edwards, chief executive of the Nuffield Trust think tank, said: "The Labour proposals to tackle the big killers and deteriorating waiting times, while shoring up care given closer to home, are welcome but ambitious. Delivering them will require time, staff and more long-term funding than Labour have so far pledged."

Starmer's plan had been inspired by the fall in waiting lists under New Labour, Paul Blakeley, of the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, said. "Labour is right to make transformation of the NHS a national mission," he said.

Both parties must be bolder to stop the NHS crisis, leading article, page 25

Raab to quit as MP after 'pressure of job on family'

Oliver Wright Policy Editor

Dominic Raab has said he will stand down as an MP at the next general election, a month after he was forced to resign from the cabinet over claims that he bullied civil servants.

The former deputy prime minister had a majority of 2,743 at the 2019 election and his Esher and Walton seat is a top target for the Liberal Democrats for the next general election.

Raab told the chairman of his local association he had become "increasingly concerned" about the pressure his job had placed on his family, citing that as the reason why he had now chosen to step down.

He is the latest in a growing number of senior Tories who have chosen to leave parliament at the next election.

Raab, 49, who was first appointed to the cabinet by Theresa May, has held a succession of high-profile jobs including Brexit secretary, foreign secretary and justice secretary.

Rishi Sunak, whom Raab backed for the leadership, had hoped that Raab would survive an independent investigation by Adam Tolley KC into claims that he had bullied officials throughout his cabinet career.

Despite clearing Raab of many of the allegations, Tolley upheld two counts of bullying against Raab, effectively forcing his resignation.

In an exchange of letters seen by the Daily Telegraph, Raab said that he had become "increasingly concerned over the last few years about the pressure the job has placed on my young family". His sons Peter and Joshua are respectively aged ten and eight.

Writing to Peter Szanto, chairman of the Esher and Walton Conservative Association, Raab said: "I will continue to carry out all my responsibilities to my constituents, and provide every support in campaigning, so that we win here next year — which I am confident we can do under this prime minister's leadership."

Curbs on students' families forecast to slash migration

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

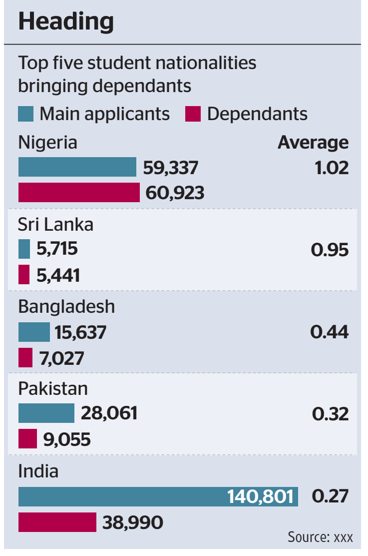
Immigration could be cut by up to 150,000 under plans expected to be announced tomorrow that will ban most foreign students from bringing family members to the UK.

Suella Braverman, the home secretary, is due to announce that all foreign students except for those on PhD courses and a small number of other limited exemptions, such as research-led master's courses, will be barred from bringing dependants to the country.

It is understood that internal government modelling has predicted the move could cut the number of migrants coming to the UK by between 120,000 and 150,000, based on 2023 figures. The vast majority of overseas students in Britain are full-time postgraduate students from non-European Union countries.

The announcement will come a day before official figures are expected to show net migration hit a record high of more than 700,000 in the year to December 2022, an increase from the 504,000 net migration in the year to June 2022.

Banning foreign students from bringing dependants would represent only a fraction of those coming to the UK, but ministers believe it will help them to argue that numbers will start falling once "abnormal" factors such as the Ukraine refugee crisis and the Hong Kong visa scheme start to fade.



Limiting the immigration crackdown to dependants of foreign students is not expected to cause controversy as Sir Keir Starmer said Labour would back the proposals, although he refused to set a target and promised not to make it harder for businesses to bring in foreign staff while the economy is struggling.

Modelling by the Home Office is understood to have shown that a significant factor driving increasing immigration figures is growing numbers of family members accompanying overseas students. Britain issued 485,758 study visas to students last year, who brought an additional 135,788 dependants. It means 22 per cent of all study-related visas issued last year were to dependants.

This compares with 16,047 dependants who came with 135,788 students in 2019, only 6 per cent. Nigerians brought the largest number of dependants, with 59,053 bringing 60,923 dependants. Indians were the second largest proportion, with 139,539 students bringing 38,990 dependants. Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Sri Lankan students accounted for the next highest figures, according to Home Office figures.

There are concerns in the Home Office that some Indians and Nigerians are using master's programmes as a "back door" into Britain as they can pay for a nine-month course, show the necessary maintenance funds and then stay for up to three years by switching to the graduate visa route after finishing their course.

The graduate route allows individuals and their dependants to stay in Britain for up to two years without the need to get a job. To bring dependants to the UK, an applicant must be studying a full-time, postgraduate-level course that lasts nine months or longer.

UK's reliance on cheap migrant labour cannot go on, Melanie Phillips, page 22

EVE ARNOLD/MAGNUM PHOTOS



Female gaze A retrospective of the work of Eve Arnold, one of Marilyn Monroe's favourite photographers, is on show at Newlands House in West Sussex



Representation Example	Duration of Credit Agreement	Device Monthly Repayment	Credit Amount	Upfront Cost of Device	Total Amount Payable	Interest rate	Representative APR	Device Cost (cash price)	Airtime Plan	Monthly Cost of Airtime Plan	Length of Airtime Plan
Google Pixel 7 Pro	36 months x	£22 =	£792 +	£49 =	£841	0%	0% (This means interest free credit)	£841	8GB + 2 Benefits	£11	24 Months

***Each April, the monthly price shown plus out of bundle charges will increase by the CPI rate published in Jan of that year + 3.9%. This will not affect your monthly Device Plan payments: vodafone.co.uk/CPI.** Minimum term agreement, eligibility, credit check, 25GB roam fair use & terms apply. **Vodafone EVO** means a monthly Device Plan Credit Agreement (over 3- 36m) with an Airtime Plan. The device price will be the same whatever you choose. You can pay off your Device Plan early, and if you do, you can keep your Airtime Plan on a 30-day contract or leave. If your Airtime Plan ends, the Device Plan is still payable (either in full or monthly). Terms: vodafone.co.uk/terms. **Roaming:** using your home plan to roam in Zone A is included in all of our Pay Monthly plans. For roaming in other destinations, charges will apply depending on which plan you are on. See vodafone.co.uk/roamingupdate22 for charges, destinations & terms. **Savings offer on an Airtime Plan:** Ends 25/05. £288 saving: Airtime Plan was £23 (£23pm x 24m) until 04/05, now £11pm (£11pm x 24m), hence £552 - £264 = £288. **Reliable, award-winning network:** The UK relies on Vodafone as a network provider as it: i) powers critical national infrastructure and 77% of emergency services, ii) has coverage in 99% of UK homes, iii) covers 96% of the UK and iv) has won numerous awards. See full details and awards on our Network page. **Finance subject to status and credit checks. 18+. Direct debit required. Credit provided by Vodafone Limited, FCA Number: 712210, Vodafone House, The Connection, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 2FN**

Divers return to reservoir in search for Madeleine

LUIS FORRA/EPA; SOLARPIX



Gerard Couzens, David Brown



A fresh search for Madeleine McCann will begin today at a reservoir that was a favourite location of the convicted rapist suspected of her murder.

The area is about 30 miles from where Madeleine disappeared from her bedroom in an Algarve holiday apartment shortly before her fourth birthday in May 2007.

German police have asked Portuguese authorities for permission to search the reservoir near Silves as they believe it was visited frequently by Christian Brückner, who has been named as the prime suspect in the child's disappearance.

Brückner, a German national, allegedly was close to the McCann's holiday apartment in Praia da Luz on the night she disappeared. He is in jail in Germany after being convicted of the rape of a 72-year-old American tourist in the same resort and has been charged with the rape of an Irish holiday rep.

It is the first significant development since Brückner was identified as a suspect in 2020, when police searched disused wells near the farmhouse where he had lived on the outskirts of Praia da Luz and a beauty spot where he had parked his campervan. The search area at Barragem do Arade includes a man-made reservoir and surrounding woodland.

SIC, the Portuguese broadcaster, reported: "Investigators know suspect Christian Brückner used to come to this dam regularly. He would call it his little paradise and would often spend the night here. He was seen here often." The broadcaster said British police officers also would be present.



The area was searched twice in February and March 2008 by divers hired by Marcos Aragão Correia, a Portuguese lawyer who claimed underworld sources had told him Madeleine's body had been thrown into the lake. Alan Wilson, leader of the dive team, said at the time: "You can't see anything down there. Divers are searching entirely by touch."

It emerged last month that Brückner, 45, may escape trial on charges in Germany for alleged sex attacks on two other girls and three women in Portugal between 2000 and 2017 because of a dispute about which court in Germany has jurisdiction.

A source close to German prosecutors said there was no "specific lead" that had led to the request for the search as part of a continuing investigation.

Portugal's investigative Judicial Police, which is in charge of the operation, said in a statement: "In the next few days in the Algarve region, new searches will be carried out at the request of the German authorities and with the presence of the British authorities."

However, a separate source familiar with the case was not optimistic about the chances of a breakthrough in the long-running case, warning: "It will come to nothing."

Brückner regularly visited the village of Foral, about ten miles from the reservoir, driving a large campervan with licence plates from Hanover, northern Germany. He allegedly claimed he had used a secret compartment on the van to smuggle cannabis

Last year Brückner denied involvement in Madeleine's disappearance. "I'm the most-known bad person in the world and I did nothing — well, almost nothing," he said. "I wasn't kidnapping anybody and of course I wasn't killing anybody. I made some silly mistakes when I was younger, but who hasn't?"

In the 2008 search at the reservoir, divers found a bag containing small bones, but they were not human.

Scotland Yard officers carried out searches of areas in and around Praia da Luz nine years ago, including digging at wasteland near the holiday complex where Madeleine was last seen before her parents went to dinner at a tapas restaurant with British friends.



Police get ready to begin a fresh search of the reservoir and surrounding area in Silves, Portugal, which is about 30 miles from where Madeleine McCann, far left, disappeared in 2007. The area is said to have been a favourite haunt of the prime suspect in the case, Christian Brückner

Scotland Yard, whose Operation Grange to find Madeleine has cost £13 million so far, was contacted for comment.

Madeleine's parents, Kate and Gerry McCann, both doctors from Rothley, Leicestershire, have not given up hope of finding their daughter alive. The couple said this month on the anniversary of her disappearance: "The investigation continues and we await a breakthrough."

On what would have been her 20th birthday, they released a slideshow featuring images of Madeleine with a message reading: "We love you and we're waiting for you. We're never going to give up."

I had to self-censor at BBC, says Marr

Shayma Bakht

Andrew Marr said he had to "self-censor" while at the pub and with his family during his time working at the BBC because of its strict impartiality rules.

The former BBC presenter, who joined as political editor in 2000 before hosting *The Andrew Marr Show* and *Start the Week* on Radio 4, said the corporation's rigid requirements of journalists were "insane".

Speaking to Radio Times about his decision to leave the BBC in 2021, Marr said: "Over time, I was self-censoring on air, and then self-censoring in front of family and friends, and even not saying what I really thought in the pub with friends. I just thought, 'This is absolutely insane, this isn't why I came into journalism at all.'"

Marr, 63, now presents a live show for Global's LBC four times a week, with an additional Classic FM show. He is also the New Statesman's political editor.

In his first year at LBC, Marr has boasted a 30 per cent rise in audience figures. He said the advertisements that Global plastered across buses to promote his show, which read "I've got my voice back", were true.

"I was live in that chair when Sajid Javid resigned [as health secretary] and I said, 'Boris Johnson's government is falling apart'. And then Rishi Sunak resigned [as chancellor] a minute later, and I said, 'That's it, it's all over!' I couldn't have done that at the BBC.

"I never wanted to be a ranter or shouter particularly. But I did want to speak more clearly… [on] something like the Rwanda policy, to which I am very opposed."

The BBC's requirement of "impartial" political reporting and its government-funded licence fee have been criticised in recent months, with Tim Davie, the corporation's director general, suspending Gary Lineker as host of *Match of the Day*, before eventually reinstating him, after the presenter compared the home secretary Suella Braverman's language towards refugees to that of 1930s Germany.

Marr said: "There are a small number of people who are genuinely speaking for the BBC — Huw Edwards, Nick Robinson, Laura Kuenssberg — who have to be really, really careful about what they say and do. But to extend that level of scrutiny to sports presenters or actors — it's ridiculous." Marr, who recovered from a severe stroke a decade ago, added: "I'm pro-BBC. I think it's a very important organisation. But it makes some very big mistakes."

Bezos 'pops the question' on his $500m superyacht

George Styllis

Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sanchez are thought to be engaged after the Amazon boss asked her to marry him on his superyacht.

The couple have been in France for the Cannes film festival while staying on Bezos's $500 million yacht, whose prow features a wooden sculpture resembling Sanchez. Rumours they were about to tie the knot have been bubbling for months after Sanchez, 53, a former TV journalist, was spotted wearing a big heart-shaped ring. Bezos, 59, and Sanchez confirmed their relationship in 2019 after Bezos finalised his divorce from his wife MacKenzie Scott, 53.



Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sanchez are in Cannes

Since then Bezos and Sanchez have often been seen at red carpet and celebrity gatherings. Last week the couple were spotted off Majorca. Bezos is ranked by Forbes as the world's third richest man with a net worth of $141 billion.

ADRIAN SHERRATT FOR THE TIMES



The ecologists Robin Leech, second left, and Will Beaumont, second right, train farmers in water testing at the River Wylye

Farmers hatch plan to halt pollution

Clean it up
WATER CAMPAIGN

Will Humphries
Countryside Correspondent

Wiltshire farmers have created a laboratory in the corner of a stable to test pollution levels in one of England's most important chalk streams.

The 31 members of Wylye Valley Farmers, an environmental cluster group, have raised £18,000 to buy a photometer to test for phosphates and nitrates in the River Wylye.

Their aim is to pinpoint the source of pollution causing a decline in biodiversity in the river, which is loved by fly fishermen. "We have war-gamed this," Josh Stratton, one member, said. "If one of our team turns out to be a polluter, we'll have to be brave and knuckle down on it. It's about cleaning the river and not prosecuting someone."

The farmers have been trained by a fisheries officer from the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) to take water samples and prevent cross contamination. Their sample sites will be upstream and downstream of Wessex Water storm overflows, villages with private septic tanks and riverside livestock and arable farms.

They also hope to carry out sediment fingerprinting of the riverbed to find which fields are the source of the pollution. A build-up of silt on the gravel bed prevents fish eggs from being oxygenated in the loose stones and carries pollution into the stream.

Surveys of invertebrates in the water, carried out by anglers who are members of the Wiltshire Fisheries Association, show declining biodiversity on the river and localised dramatic decreases.

The Times's Clean It Up campaign is pressing for improvements to rivers, lakes and beaches. It calls for the Environment Agency to be given greater resources to prosecute polluters.

Jonathan Jardine Paterson, 63, who is hosting the makeshift lab in his stable, said: "This is a finger-pointing exercise. People have tried to say it isn't but there is no point getting all this [data] if you are not going to do anything with it."

The farmers will take weekly samples and test the water quality at 17 sites along the Wylye as it flows past Warminster towards Salisbury. They hope to produce high-quality field data that can be used by the Environment Agency.

Robin Leech, an ecologist who is leading the Wiltshire project, said: "This level of testing is what the Environment Agency want to be doing and it's what they are there for but because their funding has dropped so much they don't have the resources, time or money, so we are taking it in-house."

The agency's accounts show that funding from the government for enforcement activity fell from £157.3 million in 2010 to £75.6 million in 2019.

Leech said farmers would have to increasingly meet water quality targets and "rather than wait for them to be imposed on us, we want to tackle them".

The group took inspiration from a farming cluster in Norfolk that began testing pollution levels on the River Wensum. Phosphate levels were high and the farmers found the water company to be the main cause, Leech said.

The Wylye Valley Farmers are running a pilot scheme and, if successful, the GWCT aims to extend large-scale testing by farming clusters across the Hampshire Avon catchment.

Agricultural pollution is one of the biggest reasons that nine out of ten English rivers do not meet "good" ecological status. Since April 2021 Environment Agency inspectors have logged more than 6,000 instances where farmers were told to make improvements to stay inside the law. However, no penalties have been imposed, according to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

A Defra spokesman said: "Any water recycling option considered by water companies must meet the environmental requirements for waste water treatment discharges into the environment."

Millions may migrate due to extreme temperature

Adam Vaughan Environment Editor

Scientists have warned that more than a fifth of people on Earth will live in extreme temperatures by 2100, with millions forced to migrate if the planet continues on its present climate change trajectory.

A team from the University of Exeter and experts from Europe, China and the United States found that billions of people face living in a climate outside the boundaries that have allowed humanity to flourish over millennia.

About 0.9 per cent of people today live in areas above an annual average temperature of 29C. The threshold is considered the upper limit for the "niche" of temperatures that have allowed people to thrive and where population density is highest.

On a planet 2.7C warmer than pre-industrial levels — in line with the 2.4C to 2.8C that countries' climate plans have the planet on course for — the figure jumps to 23 per cent. The world has warmed by about 1.1C already.

Tim Lenton, from the University of Exeter, said: "It's not just the mean annual temperature, it's what are going to be those hottest days of the year that might reach a physiologically dangerous level for human life?

"There's a thing called wet bulb temperature, the temperature of full humidity. The threshold for which people and animals keel over and die is about 35C. Above 28C it starts to become physiologically damaging."

India, Nigeria, Indonesia, the Philippines and Pakistan are among countries that would see the greatest number of people pushed into extreme heat areas. Popultions were likely to migrate as a result, experts said.

The good news is that five times fewer people will be hit by extreme heat by the end of the century if the world meets the Paris agreement's goal of holding global warming to 1.5C, rather than 2.7C. "It's the difference between over two billion people and a little bit over 400 million people. It's a profound difference," said Lenton, whose study was published in the journal Nature Sustainability this week.



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Scientists pinpoint brain signals linked to chronic pain for first time

Tom Whipple Science Editor

Scientists have directly identified some of the brain signals involved in chronic pain for the first time, in a finding they hope could help with treating the condition.

The research, which involved intensive monitoring of four patients, also showed that chronic pain seemed to have its own distinct neural signature.

"Chronic pain is not just a more enduring version of acute pain. It's actually fundamentally different in the brain with different circuits," said Prasad Shirvalkar, from the University of California San Francisco.

Chronic pain is defined as persistent pain that lasts for months. Often it is not associated with a clear cause. Estimates of its prevalence vary but according to some UK surveys it affects as many as one in three people, making it a significant burden on society.

Shirvalkar said that because of the lack of treatment options available it can also affect mental health. "In many ways patients with chronic pain are vulnerable because it's obviously an overwhelming problem for which there's little effective treatment."

His study, published in the journal Nature Neuroscience, sought to find a way to help remedy this by gaining a first-hand insight into the mechanisms of chronic pain in daily life.

All those involved had experienced significant chronic pain, either after losing a limb or following a stroke. They agreed to have electrodes implanted into two areas of the brain, the anterior cingulate cortex and orbitofrontal cortex, to monitor electrical activity.

During the course of the day, over several months, the volunteers were asked to record their pain levels. The scientists could then compare this to the readings from the electrodes. When they had enough data, they then showed they could use brain activity to predict people's pain. The findings were unique to each of the patients. This meant, said Shirvalkar, that they had a biomarker — allowing an objective measure of pain, and hopefully a better understanding of what is going on.

"Chronic pain is really a disease unto itself," said Shirvalkar. "We still lack a basic understanding of how it works in the brain or the mechanisms in the brain and there's no way to objectively measure or quantify any person's pain experience."

The new finding may change that. Having an objective biomarker to track pain would allow doctors to assess changes and monitor improvement or deterioration, said Shirvalkar.

Implanting electrodes is, though, an extreme intervention. Unless non-invasive techniques can be developed, its use will be limited. For those most affected, though, this approach does have an advantage.

Shirvalkar and his colleagues are now testing whether they can use the electrodes not just to monitor brain activity, but to interfere with and neutralise the harmful circuits too.

'Tenacious' cancer fundraiser dies at 23

A 23-year-old woman who raised tens of thousands of pounds for charity after being diagnosed with terminal cancer has died (Laurence Sleator writes).

Laura Nuttall had stage four glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer, diagnosed during a routine eye test in October 2018 when she was a new student at King's College London.

Then aged 18, Nuttall, from Barrowford in Lancashire, was given 12 months to live but defied expectations and went on to create a "bucket list" of ambitions to achieve. These included presenting a BBC weather forecast, meeting Michelle Obama and captaining a warship, which took place when the Royal Navy allowed her to take command of HMS Charger. She also raised thousands of pounds for charity, inspiring the comedian Peter Kay, 49, to return to the stage after a four-year hiatus. Proceeds from two special gigs went to her charity.



Nicola Nuttall, Laura's mother, wrote on social media: "I'm heartbroken to share the news that we lost our beautiful Laura in the early hours of this morning. She was fierce and tenacious to the end and it was truly the honour of my life to be her mum. We are devastated at the thought of life without our girl … she was a force of nature."

Laura Nuttall died at her home in Lancashire where she was receiving palliative care.

In March, five years after her diagnosis, Nuttall had travelled to Germany for a course of electro-hyperthermia. Her family said the surgery was "throwing the kitchen sink" at her cancer.

In July 2022, four years after being forced to leave university in London after being diagnosed, Nuttall graduated with a 2:1 degree in politics, philosophy and economics from the University of Manchester. From her bucket list she also managed to go fishing with Bob Mortimer and Paul Whitehouse, visit the Heinz baked beans factory and drive a monster truck.

Her mother said: "She squeezed more in to her 23 years and five months than most people do in a lifetime." Jack Morris, the chairman of trustees at the Brain Tumour Charity, said: "Laura was steadfast in her determination to share her story to raise vital awareness of glioblastomas, their devastating impact and the need for greater investment in research.

"[She] touched the hearts and minds of so many, reaching out to offer comfort and hope to others going through similar diagnoses."

PETER POWELL; BBC







Laura Nuttall drove a monster truck, presented the weather and went fishing with Paul Whitehouse and Bob Mortimer as she ticked off her bucket list

Illness leaves me in agony, says BBC host

Eleanor Hayward
Health Correspondent

The BBC presenter Naga Munchetty has revealed she is often left screaming in agony due to a debilitating womb condition that has caused her a "lifetime of pain".

The 48-year-old broadcaster was given a diagnosis of adenomyosis eight months ago after suffering with symptoms including extreme period pain since she was a teenager.

On her BBC Radio 5 Live show, Munchetty told listeners that her husband had to call an ambulance for her this weekend after a severe flare up.

"The pain was so terrible I couldn't move, turn over, sit up. I screamed non-stop for 45 minutes," she said.

Adenomyosis is a condition where cells that form the lining of the womb, called endometrial cells, are found in the outer muscular wall around the womb.

This endometrial tissue sheds and bleeds during the menstrual cycle, causing painful, heavy periods.

Munchetty said: "Right now, as I sit here talking to you, I am in pain — constant, nagging pain. In my uterus, around my pelvis; sometimes it runs down my thighs.

"And I'll have some level of pain for the entire show and for the rest of the day until I go to sleep. Every so often the pain changes, it becomes a stabbing pain that takes my breath away and I can do nothing but sit with it or curl up to cope."

She added: "I'm in pain because I have something called adenomyosis. You probably haven't heard of it, I hadn't either until I was diagnosed eight months ago that I had it. After decades of painful heavy periods that made me pass out, sweat, cry, moan, curl up in a tight ball. Having to sleep on a towel, I'd set myself an alarm every three hours at night to make sure I changed my tampon.

"A lifetime of being told 'you're just unlucky, it's one of those things', changing my life to cope with the pain. I am just one of many, many more women."

Adenomyosis is thought to affect one in ten women, but the severity of symptoms vary and it often goes undiagnosed. Treatment can include hormonal contraception and painkillers. The only cure is a hysterectomy to remove the womb, which tends to be offered as a last resort.

In a conversation with another adenomyosis patient, Munchetty said she was resisting the hysterectomy route at the moment.



Naga Munchetty revealed that she has adenomyosis

Behind the story

Adenomyosis affects about one in ten women, although most do not have a diagnosis (Eleanor Hayward writes).

The wall of the womb has two layers: the outer muscle layer, and the inner lining known as the endometrium. In women with adenomyosis, tissue that forms the inner lining of the womb is found in the outer muscle layer.

This tissue acts in the same way as the endometrial tissue lining the womb does — thickening, breaking down and bleeding with each menstrual cycle — but it has no way of exiting the body.

As the blood and tissue become trapped in the muscle lining, causing swelling, the woman can develop symptoms that include heavy and painful periods.

Adenomyosis is difficult to diagnose as symptoms vary a great deal, with about one in three women with the condition not experiencing any at all. It can be diagnosed through pelvic examinations and ultrasound scans that look for an enlarged womb.

Endometriosis is another condition in which cells that normally line the womb are found elsewhere, usually in the pelvis around the womb, ovaries and fallopian tubes.

Thieves using new tech to swipe cars in 90 seconds

Ben Clatworthy
Transport Correspondent

Vehicle thefts soared by a quarter across England and Wales last year.

Experts attributed the rise to sophisticated new technology that thieves are using to access and start cars by breaching their internal computers.

The Office for National Statistics recorded 130,389 vehicle thefts last year — an increase of 25 per cent compared with 2021. The figures are also influenced by the third national lockdown from January to March 2021, when crime rates fell.

AA Insurance Services said thieves were using a "variety of hi-tech methods" to steal vehicles. Techniques include "relay thefts", in which thieves use relay boxes — one near the car and another close to the front door of the owner's home where the car's key fob is usually kept — to extend its signal and make it appear that the device is within range of the car. They can then open the doors and drive off.

There has also been an increase in thieves using Bluetooth speakers and old mobile phones to disguise hardware that, once connected to a vehicle, can be used to steal cars from driveways.

Security experts have identified scores of cars with flaws that let criminals infiltrate their computer network. On some models, components on the outside can be removed, revealing wires that allow access to the network that controls that car, including locks, the immobiliser and the engine. Cars can then be stolen within 90 seconds.

Websites are selling illegal devices that can infiltrate various makes and models, costing from £1,300 to about £5,000. Gus Park, the managing director of AA Insurance Services, said the increase in thefts was "out of control".

He added: "We urge police chiefs and crime commissioners across the country to create an action plan to crack the case. Unfortunately, there is no one thing that can guarantee keeping your car safe but just making it a bit harder for the thieves can make it less likely that they'll go for your car."

Automotive security experts have advised car owners to use steering wheel locks to protect their vehicles. Sources at car insurance firms said the rising thefts were a serious concern. "The new generation of theft devices have evolved from the relay devices," one said. "Thieves are now accessing vehicles via the electronic components in the front of the car without the need of a key or key signal."

Woman, 77, sets a high for drug-driving

Ben Clatworthy

Illegal drivers as old as 77 and as young as 15 were among thousands to test positive for drugs, figures have revealed.

Almost 20,000 motorists were reported to the DVLA by police last year as being high on drugs, including 10,000 caught behind the wheel after smoking cannabis. More than 5,980 had taken cocaine and a further 1,934 had taken both drugs, figures obtained by the Daily Mail showed.

In dozens of cases drivers had taken a cocktail of four or more drugs, including cannabis, cocaine, ketamine, ecstasy and amphetamines.

The oldest motorist reported to the DVLA was a 77-year-old woman. On average, 80 motorists are caught each day driving under the influence of drugs, according to the National Police Chiefs' Council.

Many suspected offenders avoid prosecution because it takes four to five months for forces to receive lab results but officers have only six months to prosecute.

Drug-related accidents rose by 260 per cent in a decade, official data found.

MARTIN YELLAND/SWNS



Winging it Martin Yelland placed a fake puffin on his head to lure the real things for photographs on a snorkelling trip near Skomer Island off Pembrokeshire



Default Private Accounts
Instagram accounts for teenagers are set to private by default, so what they post stays private to them and their followers.

Daily Time Limit
Helps you set healthy habits with your teenager by capping time spent on the app.

Supervision Tools
By setting up Supervision together, you can see who your teenager follows and who follows them back.

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Sound and fury over 'Glasto in Cotswolds'

DAVID GODDARD/GETTY IMAGES





The Duke of Beaufort, below, is to host two summer concerts starring the Who and Rod Stewart, below left, on his Gloucestershire estate

Plans to hold a series of concerts on the Duke of Beaufort's estate in Gloucestershire have left his neighbours fearing they could be swamped by traffic from "Glastonbury in the Cotswolds" (Will Humphries writes).

Henry Somerset, 70, the 12th Duke of Beaufort, known to friends as Bunter, started selling tickets on the Badminton estate website for concerts by the Who and Rod Stewart in July, despite not having a licence at the time.

Cotswold council later granted Robomagic Live, the promoter, a licence for the events, which are being held at Worcester Park, despite opposition from residents in the nearby villages of Didmarton and Sopworth. Thirty-nine people complained about the application, which includes the right to host plays, films, live music and dance. They fear country lanes around the estate will be blocked by 25,000 concertgoers' movements at the remote parkland.

James Middleton, who lives in Didmarton, said: "I fear that issuing this open-ended licence for a few concerts will soon grow to events intruding on Didmarton and surrounding villages many weekends throughout the year.

"You will be opening Pandora's Box. 'Do we/you really want "Glastonbury in the Cotswolds" in the future?"

Susan Ellis, a fellow villager, complained: "The company say that the music will end at 11.30pm and they will have 25,000 people off the site, across the A433, in their cars and clear of the village by 12am. This is utterly ludicrous."

Nick Hare, chairman of Sopworth parish meeting, wrote to the council: "The granting of a licence … presents unwarranted and wholly avoidable inconvenience and distress to the residents."

The event organisers said in their application that they would take all appropriate steps to make sure the events were safe and did not cause a nuisance.

Schofield could make a clean break from ITV after hosting soap awards

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

Phillip Schofield's television future is up in the air after ITV's decision to allow him to save face by presenting *The British Soap Awards* early next month.

Rumours were swirling yesterday that the *This Morning* presenter — who stepped down abruptly on Saturday after 21 years on the daytime show and amid a feud with Holly Willoughby, his co-presenter — would not front any further ITV programmes after the event on June 3.

Announcing his departure, Kevin Lygo, ITV's managing director of media and entertainment, said Schofield would present the awards in Manchester for a 13th successive year, along with an unnamed "brand new peak-time series". "We look forward to continuing our relationship with Phillip," he said.

Further details about the new show have not been disclosed, however, and industry executives are sceptical that it will see the light of day.





Dermot O'Leary and Alison Hammond paid tribute to Phillip Schofield

Schofield's brand suffered last year during the row over whether he and Willoughby had skipped the queue for Queen Elizabeth II's lying in state, while tension between the presenters increased over the way in which he had handled his brother's trial over child sex offences and his unilateral decision to issue a statement describing them as "the best of friends".

One source who works closely with ITV said: "I'd be extremely surprised if we see him on the channel after the *Soap Awards*." They noted ITV's commitment to "continue working with Jeremy Kyle" in 2019 when *The Jeremy Kyle Show* was cancelled after the suicide of a contributor. "Nothing ever emerged," they said. A second ITV producer was similarly dubious: "They may make a pilot episode to honour their agreement, but the expectation is he'll be eased out."

One former colleague said the "consummate broadcaster" had been brought down by the breakdown in his relationship with Willoughby. "It relies on them having good chemistry."

A talent agent said they expected *This Morning* to adopt a "rotation", with guest presenters including Dermot O'Leary, Alison Hammond, Rylan Clark and Josie Gibson.

"It will mirror the *Good Morning Britain* approach after Piers Morgan. Holly will be the Susanna Reid of the situation, the star the others revolve around," they said.

Introducing *This Morning* yesterday, Hammond and O'Leary, who are standing in while Willoughby takes a break, paid tribute to Schofield.

After a turbulent few years, what will Phillip Schofield do next? Times2

Teacher who called boy a girl is banned

Debbie White

A Christian teacher who referred to a transgender pupil as a girl rather than a boy in class has been banned from the profession.

The Teaching Regulation Agency ruled that Joshua Sutcliffe, 33, had failed to treat a student with "dignity and respect" in a misconduct case believed to be the first of its kind in Britain.

Sutcliffe was suspended in 2017 after the incident having worked as a maths teacher at a state secondary school in Oxfordshire. The complaint came after he accidentally said "well done girls" to the boy and another pupil during a lesson. Sutcliffe, who had denied any wrongdoing, said he had apologised when the boy objected.

He admitted at that time, however, that he refused to use the pronouns "he" or "him" when referring to the pupil and for professional reasons used the pupil's adopted male first name instead. He believed that, as a Christian, it was not wrong to refer to someone who was born female as a girl.

In its ruling, the agency found that Sutcliffe had failed to protect the pupil's wellbeing when he did not use the preferred pronouns of a girl who identified as a boy, according to The Daily Telegraph.

It also found that it was "more probable than not" that on separate occasions while working at the school Sutcliffe had referred to the transgender pupil in public using female pronouns — an allegation he denied.

Sutcliffe also was found guilty of misconduct for expressing his views against gay marriage. He said he planned to appeal against the decision.

Equalities boss 'victim of witch-hunt for her gender views'

Nadeem Badshah

Staff at the equalities watchdog have been accused of orchestrating a campaign against its chairwoman after she backed legal reforms guarding the rights of biological women, it was claimed last night.

They are said to have a dossier of more than 40 complaints from a dozen present and former colleagues at the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) about Baroness Falkner of Margravine.

Relations between staff and Falkner are understood to have become fractious after she backed an overhaul of the 2010 Equality Act to protect the rights of biological women in single-sex spaces, such as hospital wards and lavatories. Whistleblowers said she was the victim of a witch-hunt driven by ideology.

A source told the Daily Mail: "People within the organisation are deeply concerned that this is a witch-hunt… There is no doubt in my mind that this is ideologically motivated and is a way to take a scalp in revenge. She is the woman breaking woke and now they are trying to break her."

Members of the commission's board, headed by Falkner, have argued that the Equality Act should be revised to define sex as "biological sex" to bring legal clarity in areas including sport and ensure that only "biological women" can use single-sex spaces. Their position has been criticised by some in the transgender community.

Falkner is said to have been "heartbroken" by the allegations and her supporters said her "conscience was clear".

Marcial Boo, head of the EHRC, said: "We treat allegations of bullying and harassment with the utmost seriousness, following the proper process… It would be wrong to comment on specifics when investigations are ongoing."

LEO MASON SPORTS/ALAMY



You cut me up The British Lawnmower Racing Association, which presides over "the cheapest form of motorsport", was in action at Matterley Basin near Winchester

Rail firms told to stop free wi-fi

Ben Clatworthy
Transport Correspondent

Passengers face losing access to wi-fi on trains after ministers told rail companies to cut costs. In a move that will infuriate passengers, operators have been told they should stop providing the service unless they can demonstrate its business justification.

The move is being pushed by the Department for Transport in an attempt to cut costs as it looks to "reform all aspects" of the railway. Almost all operators provide the service without charge at present.

Railfuture, the campaign group, said: "We should be encouraging passengers to get back on the trains and this is a good example of a move that is going to make rail less attractive." Christian Wolmar, the author and railway historian, called it a "ridiculous measure".

The transport department said: "Our railways are currently not financially sustainable and it is unfair to continue asking taxpayers to foot the bill, which is why reform of all aspects of the railways is essential."

Call to give rape victims own legal advice

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

Rape complainants should be advised by independent lawyers, and judges could vet cross-examination questions in an effort to counter "the effects of rape myths on trials".

In landmark reforms proposed on Tuesday, the Law Commission said that more needed to be done to treat alleged victims "humanely" while protecting the rights of defendants.

Latest figures from the crime survey of England and Wales found that about 128,000 adults – more than 90 per cent of them women – reported having been a victim of rape or attempted rape.

The most radical suggestion from the commission, which advises the government on law reform in England and Wales, would be for alleged rape victims to receive independent legal advice and representation. According to the commission's consultation paper, lawyers would advise complainants so that they would be able to "make informed decisions about the way their evidence is given and used, and to participate in decisions about the use of their sensitive personal information".

In addition, the commission said ministers should consider imposing strict controls on defence barristers' questioning of complainants – in some cases forcing them to seek advance approval from the judge for certain lines of cross-examination.

Judges could also be asked to consider the "risk of perpetuating myths and misconceptions" under a new framework for restricting the use of evidence of complainants' sexual behaviour. The commission said its recommendations were rooted in a desire to reduce the impact of "rape myths" on trials. Justice ministers and senior officials at the Crown Prosecution Service face increasing pressure to improve the number of rape allegations that go to trial and ultimately end in convictions.

In its consultation, the commissioners said that with regard to rape, the wider public was affected by "genuine and sincere beliefs that are factually incorrect and derived from stereotypes". It went on to give as an example what it said was a myth: that alleged rapes must always be reported promptly. "Most rapes are never reported, and delay is common," the commissioners said.

The paper went on to argue that there was a "weight of evidence" suggesting that "in spite of a myriad strategies to minimise their effects … myths and misconceptions about rape and sexual assault still contaminate aspects of the trial process". Other reforms being consulted on included a "bespoke" process for the disclosure and use of complainants' personal records, including counselling notes, which would be overseen directly by judges.

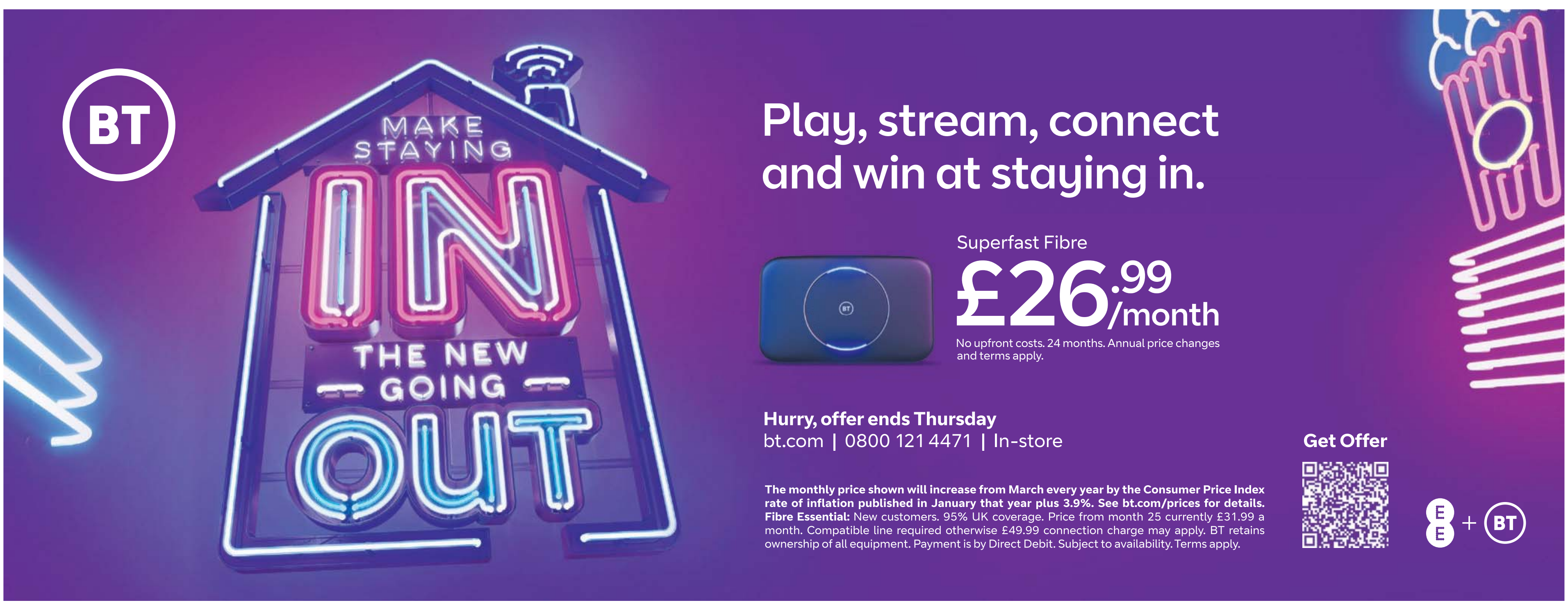
Alleged victims could be given an automatic right to give evidence over a remote live link, or in private, with an exemption for media attendance.

And the commissioners suggest expert evidence be used to explain the complex physical and psychological responses to sexual violence to help juries to dismiss so-called rape myths.

Andrea Simon, the director of End Violence Against Women Coalition, said that at present "the criminal justice system is a site of harm, which retraumatises victims". She described the commission's recommendations as "a hugely important step".

The key proposals

- Having a bespoke regime for the access, disclosure and use of complainants' personal records, including counselling notes.
- Judicial oversight of whether and how personal records should be used.
- A framework to restrict use of evidence of complainants' sexual behaviour.
- Giving complainants an automatic entitlement to measures to help them to give evidence.
- Independent legal advice and representation for complainants.
- Educational tools that could help minimise the impact of rape myths on jury decision-making.



Drought helps push price of olive oil to eye-popping heights

Isambard Wilkinson Madrid
Andrew Ellson
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

The price of bread, milk and cheese might finally be easing but another staple of middle-class kitchens is set to see further cost increases.

A drought in Spain has pushed the price of olive oil to a record high, with farmers warning of even worse crop yields later this year.

Wholesale prices increased by 11 per cent in April alone, pushing the cost of a kilo of extra virgin oil to a historic high of £5.22. Supermarket shoppers have already seen the price of olive oil grow by an average of 49 per cent over the past year, according to the Office for National Statistics, after a severe drought in Europe devastated olive crops last year.

The statistics agency said that olive oil had increased in price more than any other product except cucumbers in the year to March. A half-litre of own-brand Spanish olive oil in Waitrose already costs £5.75.

After Tesco, Sainsbury's and other supermarkets cut the cost of bread, milk and cheese, shoppers have been warned they will pay even more for olive oil. The main driver of price rises is the lack of rain in Spain, the world's largest producer of olive oil, accounting for about 40 per cent of global output.

Britain has been particularly badly hit by the shortages, as it imports roughly two thirds of its olive oil from the country.

The drought has also affected producers in Portugal and Italy, meaning that stocks have been depleted across all EU suppliers.

Primitivo Fernández, president of Anierac, the Spanish association of oil packers and refiners, said: “We have never seen prices like this before.”

The drought and episodes of extreme heat reduced the 2022-23 harvest by half in Spain, with production slightly above 660,000 tonnes. Under normal conditions the harvest can produce 1.5 million tonnes, according to agriculture ministry data. The farming association Coag called it “the worst campaign since 1995-96”.

Production for the domestic market has fallen by 33 per cent up to March and exports by 23 per cent. Prices of olive oil have risen so high in Spain that consumption there is falling. A litre of virgin olive oil is sold in Spain for more than £6. In February last year the price was below £4.35. Data from the consulting firm NielsenIQ shows a reduction in retail sales of 14 per cent in Spain for the third week of April compared with the same period last year.

Rafael Sánchez de Puerta, head of the sector at Cooperativas Agroalimentarias de España, said that Spain has suffered the driest start to a year since records began.

Coag said in the southern province of Jaén, usually home to more than a fifth of the world's olive oil production, only 20 per cent of the normal crop will be produced this autumn.

Times readers invited to plant trees in honour of loved ones



Joanna Sedley-Burke will plant a tree for her late wife, Paula, right. Dame Judi Dench, left, urged people to get involved

Charlie Parker

Britons who have lost loved ones are invited to give them a “living legacy” by planting trees in a dedicated woodland to mark Celebration Day this Sunday.

The National Trust has partnered with The Times to promote the new day of remembrance on May 28, backed by celebrities including Dame Judi Dench, Stephen Fry and Arlene Phillips.

Five thousand trees are available exclusively to Times readers, who can sign up from today to grow a tree in memory of a friend or family member at a site near Dunham Massey in Greater Manchester.



Native broadleaves such as oak, beech, hornbeam and lime, as well as wildlife-rich shrub species such as hawthorn, blackthorn and hazel, will be planted by the trust's rangers and experts. In some places, ornamental varieties will be introduced to “reflect the history” of the area.

Dench said: “It's no secret that I adore trees and I personally plant a tree every time a close friend or relative dies.

“I have a whole wood of friends and family. I love to see the tree grow in celebration of their lives and it provides a living legacy that brings back fond memories, as well as helping the environment.” She added: “Trees are part of my extended family and I implore people to get involved on May 28.”

A survey for Celebration Day found that 72 per cent of adults would want to plant a tree to remember a loved one. Each tree, to be planted from the autumn, has the potential to remove a tonne of carbon dioxide from the air over its lifetime. The habitat created will be a haven for wildlife including barn owls, voles and mice. Blackcaps and willow warblers may use the thickets, and countless invertebrates will move into the canopy and soil.

Alex Locker, 33, from Hackney Wick in east London, is among the thousands involved. She will plant a tree in memory of her parents, Pauline and Jeremy. “My father passed away in an accident in 2008 and my mother from cancer in 2015,” she said. “They were simply magical people. Planting a tree in tribute to their memory as kind, funny, loving and generous people gives comfort to my siblings and me.”

Joanna Sedley-Burke, 55, is dedicating a tree to her wife Paula, who died aged 45 of pneumonia. “At Paula's funeral I gifted everyone a little pouch of forget-me-nots,” she said. “Since then I have planted roses every year. The progression to planting a tree reflects my life and the roots in this new chapter.”

Fry told The Times that Celebration Day was an “inspired movement that encourages people to take a moment to renew connections to the wonderful people who may have left our lives but can still live in our memories”.

Phillips will dedicate a tree to her friend Len Goodman, the ballroom dancer and judge, who died in April.

Hilary McGrady, director-general of the National Trust, said: “I think the fact that in planting a tree we are creating a better world for future generations, as well as marking a special life, is very powerful for people.”

For more details see page 20
Planting the future, leading article, page 25

Behind the story

Celebration Day is a new national day that encourages the British public to remember the people who are no longer with us.

Whether they are loved ones, friends, heroes, or those whose lives have helped to shape ours, it marks a moment to pause and cherish fond memories.

Annual acts of remembrance can be as simple as taking five minutes out of our hectic schedules to think about a person who has died. Others may plan family trips to meaningful locations or dig out an old family recipe that was passed down through the years.

The idea for the day was developed by an eclectic group of friends who were united in grief and did not want to “lose connections to our pasts”. The first Celebration Day in 2022 enjoyed endorsements from famous faces across the country. This year, as well as tree planting, memorial benches are being built for “all corners of the UK”. The Celebration Day website said the day helped to preserve “the stories of people who have come before us, by passing them from generation to generation”.

Ghanaian-born barrister to be first black leader of the Bar Council

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

A lawyer who escaped to Britain after a military coup in Ghana is to become the first black leader of the barristers' profession.

Barbara Mills KC has been elected as next year's vice-chairwoman of the Bar Council and will take the top role at the 129-year-old body in 2025.

Called to the Bar in 1990, Mills was promoted to Queen's Counsel only three years ago. In common with all QCs, she now has the title of KC. Mills also will be the first family law specialist in 35 years to lead the 17,000-strong profession in England and Wales. Based at 4PB Chambers in central London, where she is joint head, she specialises in complex cases involving children.



Latest figures suggest only 1.3 per cent of King's Counsels are black. Overall, 3.2 per cent of practising barristers in England and Wales are black.

Those from an Asian background make up the highest proportion of ethnic minority practitioners at the Bar, 7.4 per cent overall and nearly 5 per cent of KCs.

One of six children, Mills was born in Ghana in 1967 and moved to England with her mother, who had trained as a midwife in the UK in the 1950s, and three siblings. Her businessman father remained in Africa.

Mills said in an interview in 2020 that her family had lived in a flat on a “super-dangerous” social housing estate in southeast London that was rife with racial hostility. She credited her mother for securing scholarships and bursaries for all the children to be privately educated.

Mills told The Times she remained proudly Ghanaian. She recalled the reaction she had received during training before qualifying as a barrister, which had been arranged over the telephone. When she arrived, the barristers said they had not been expecting a black woman: “It was obvious they didn't want me — a narrative about who they thought I was was created just because I walked through the door.”

Mills said she wanted to focus on “the vitally important work on equality, diversity and inclusion at the Bar”, adding that there had been “some progress but there is so much more to be done”.

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Moore and his case of mystery

When Brian Cox met Sir Patrick Moore, the first thing he noticed about his fellow stargazer was that he was like a photon — travelling light. Cox had invited Moore, right, then presenter of *The Sky at Night*, to an event at Manchester University and was struck by his baggage. "He had this Paddington Bear suitcase," Cox told The Delaunay's *An Evening With …* series. "All it held was a pair of xylophone hammers." Moore went away with more the next morning, after many drinks and a night at the home of Cox's supervisor. "He just staggered around and filled the suitcase with anything," Cox said. His supervisor didn't know until the phone rang. "Professor Marshall," the caller said. "This is the BBC. We think we have your trousers." Perhaps Moore's suitcase was just demonstrating how black holes suck in all matter.



The actor Eddie Marsan can see why Suella Braverman sought to avoid a group motoring class. "I had to do a speed awareness course and, as a famous actor, it was humiliating," he said. "No one recognised me." Michael Fabricant, on the other hand, loves attention. "I rather enjoyed it," the Tory backbencher said. "There was lemon drizzle cake and great camaraderie among us 'criminals'."

MILK WITH MAGICAL POWERS

The lure of spending time with a celebrity classicist helped to raise £260,000 at a gala dinner for the charity Classics for All, which supports the teaching of Latin and Greek in state schools. Two lessons with Dame Mary Beard went for £3,000 each and a walking tour of Roman London with Tom Holland fetched £9,000, but *primus inter pares* was Michael Scott, the academic and TV presenter, whose promise of tea and a tour of the Ashmolean in Oxford had two winning bids of £12,000. Scott made his name, he recalled, on a programme about ancient spying techniques, where he explained how Ovid used milk as an invisible ink. The producers then encouraged him to say lemon juice, urine or semen would also work. "Naturally, it was the last they decided to use," he said. It's an ink where every man has his own pen.

The chairman of Classics for All is Jimmy Mulville, best known now as managing director of Hat Trick Productions, which makes Have I Got News For You *and other comedy series. Mulville started his career as an actor and 35 years ago played the governor of Roman Britain in the sitcom* Chelmsford 123. *"My children found a DVD of it that said 'forgotten comedy gem' on the cover," he said, "so that's now their nickname for me."*

A TRULY HONOURABLE MEMBER

Yesterday was the centenary of Stanley Baldwin becoming prime minister. In a piece for UnHerd, the historian Dominic Sandbrook recalls an extraordinary act of generosity four years earlier when Baldwin, in a letter to The Times, called on "the wealthy classes" to give a voluntary levy to help to pay Britain's huge war debts. Baldwin himself gave 20 per cent of his fortune — worth £33 million today. Yet the letter was unsigned and he made the editor promise not to tell anybody. "He didn't want the attention," Sandbrook writes. "Just try to imagine Matt Hancock doing that."

PATRICK KIDD

Palace won't return Ethiopia's lost prince

Mario Ledwith

The remains of an Ethiopian prince who was captured by British troops in the 19th century will not be returned to his home country after Buckingham Palace ruled out an exhumation.

Distant relatives of Prince Alemayehu said it was "not right" that his resting place was the grounds of Windsor Castle, where he was buried at 18 after a miserable childhood in the UK.

Repeated calls for his return to Ethiopia, including from the country's former president and academics, have been rebuffed. Turning down the latest request, Buckingham Palace said that any attempt to remove the remains would disturb others buried in the crypt at St George's Chapel.

Abebech Kasa, who can trace his family line to Alemayehu, told the BBC: "He was dislocated from Ethiopia, from Africa, from the land of black people, and remained there as if he had no home. We want him back."

The prince's ordeal at the hands of the British has been the subject of campaigns in Ethiopia, while books and plays have been written about him.

The son of Emperor Tewodros II, he had bloodlines going back to the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon. Tewodros angered the British after taking hostages, including the British consul and missionaries, when his attempts to form an allegiance with the UK were ignored by Queen Victoria. After a three-day battle in Maqdala in northern Ethiopia, British troops declared victory. Tewodros killed himself rather than surrender.

Alemayehu was seven when he was captured and taken to Britain, where he was presented to Queen Victoria. She organised his enrolment at Rugby School, where he endured nine torrid years. He went on to Sandhurst but was bullied and left after less than one term. He died in Leeds in November 1879 after falling ill with pleurisy.

Victoria wrote in her diary: "It is too sad! All alone in a strange country, without a single person or relative belonging to him."

She arranged for him to be buried at Windsor Castle. Ethiopian dignitaries, including the country's last emperor, Haile Selassie, have visited the site.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said that the dean and canons of Windsor were "very sensitive to the need to honour the memory of Prince Alemayehu".



Alemayehu was seven when he was brought to Britain



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A showman at the height of his powers

Pop Susie Goldsbrough

Harry Styles
Coventry Building Society Arena
★★★★☆

The path to the Coventry Building Society Arena (the football stadium, not a bank) was paved with pink feathers. Inside, a small town's worth of teenage girls (plus a few befuddled parents) in pink glittery cowboy hats assembled.

"Who's Gen-Z's answer to David Bowie?" I asked some friends recently. "Harry Styles," came one unhesitating reply.

I wouldn't go quite so far — we're talking about a pop star who was lab-grown in the *X-Factor* boy band One Direction, after all — but last night I could see what she meant. The gender-flunking (he wore a dress on the cover of Vogue), flares-sporting, tousled-haired sex symbol has something of uncategorisable Bowie — and so, too, of his universal appeal. Everybody loves Harry Styles, myself included. But until this show, I didn't realise just how funny he is.

His third album, *Harry's House*, released last year, completed his transformation from teen idol to musician. It's a lovely, soft rock, Seventies-infused confection, with nods to Joni Mitchell and Fleetwood Mac. It was the bestselling album of 2022 and nabbed Styles two Grammys. With this show, his first back in the UK this year, he begins the final leg of a mega two-year tour.

Looking a little bit like Ziggy Stardust in a shimmery, chocolate-and-yellow-sweater vest and shiny leather trousers, he skipped around the vast stage like a sequinned mountain goat: all hips and leaps and old-school tap steps. It is hard to convey just how totally at ease he is before a crowd: boyish, smiley and oh so effortlessly sexy. He plucked pride flags and silly hats that flew through the air and paraded around in them.

What an entertainer. Crowd interaction in a venue this vast is usually impossible or cringey, but Styles, channeling a touch of the cheeky chappy, free-styled into pure stand-up. Reading from homemade signs, he introduced us to Julie, who was on her first night out in 15 years ("But who in here hasn't had a night in in 15 years? Ah yes, you can count on Coventry"). Then there was Kate, due to give birth that night ("You sure this is a good idea, Kate?"). This is a showman at the height of his powers, revelling in the adoration and energy beaming back at him.

And what about the music? It was a joyful flurry of dance-pop. He and his exuberant band (three horns, two drum kits, even a cello) mixed the whimsical sounds of *Harry's House* and the One Direction nostalgia track *What Makes You Beautiful*.

During a moving encore, *Sign of the Times*, fans held up tributes to the victims of the Manchester arena bombing, which took place six years ago exactly at a pop concert much like this one. But not even the tragedy could dampen the vibe at this show (although the infinite queues to get in had a go). "You're free to go and enjoy the rest of your Monday night," Styles joked, as it came to an end. For there was nothing after him, he well knew. No one can follow Harry Styles.

Touring until July 22



Harry Styles skipped around the vast stage like a sequinned mountain goat

'Bullying' at heart of fees fraud trial

David Brown

A senior army officer accused of fraudulently claiming private school fees has told a court that his daughter was being bullied at her state school while he was serving in Afghanistan.

Lieutenant Colonel Marcus Reedman told Southwark crown court that he had sent his eldest daughter to a private prep school in 2011 because she was being bullied "severely every day". Her younger brother attended the same school.

The officer, who has since retired, led the Gurkhas in East Timor and in the 2003 invasion of Iraq and repeated tours of Afghanistan. He was posted to the Ministry of Defence in central London in 2015 while living at the family home near Rye, East Sussex.

He was in Mogadishu, Somalia, when told that he was not eligible to continue receiving the education allowance, which pays up to 90 per cent of boarding school fees. He flew to London to say he would do "whatever necessary" to keep receiving the allowance.

Colonel Ian Large, commanding officer of the joint service administration unit, which made the decision, said his application would not pass "The Sun test" — how the claim would look in the tabloid press, the court heard.

Reedman moved to army housing at Biggin Hill, southeast London, to keep receiving the allowance, but is accused of failing to disclose that his wife still lived at the family home in Rye.

The private school fees for his children were more than his entire £75,000 salary, the court has heard.

He told the court that his family had moved with him to Biggin Hill. Reedman, 52, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, denies fraud. The trial continues.

Widow of barrister who killed himself sues his psychiatrist

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

The widow of a human rights lawyer who killed himself at the age of 48 is suing a psychiatrist for £5 million over claims of negligence.

John Jones was head of international law at Doughty Street Chambers and represented defendants at the special court set up by the UN for alleged war crimes in Sierra Leone. More recently he had acted for Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks.

The QC died after walking out of the Nightingale Hospital, a private facility in north London, where he was being treated for acute depression in 2016.

Jones had described himself as being locked in a "downward spiral" before he was admitted to the hospital under the care of Stephen Pereira, an eminent psychiatrist.

The lawyer's family reported that Jones was in a "terrible place" and "a danger to himself". They also said that there had been problems with getting his medication right.

Lawyers for his family are now claiming in the High Court that Pereira failed to institute an "effective and adequate care plan".

Misa Zgonec-Rozej, Jones's widow, is suing the psychiatrist for alleged negligence. Her lawyers told court that her husband was "not untreatable and he was not inevitably doomed to take his own life".





Misa Zgonec-Rozej was widowed in 2016 when her husband John Jones killed himself after being treated for depression. She is seeking up to £5million for alleged negligence

However, lawyers for Pereira have told the court that an effective care programme was put in place, but that Jones did not respond well and was reluctant to take his medication or engage in group therapy.

Elizabeth-Anne Gumbel KC, representing Zgonec-Rozej, told the court that the risk of self-harm had not been "managed" effectively at the hospital because of "deficiencies in the care provided" by Pereira.

Gumbel said that Jones was "provided with no effective treatment, no effective therapy and no effective management". Zgonec-Rozej has also alleged that after her husband's urgent admission to hospital, responsibility for his care was transferred to another psychiatrist because Pereira had a holiday booked.

Lawyers for Pereira have argued that the psychiatrist put in place an effective care plan.

One expert witness claimed that the suicide "could not reasonably have been predicted or prevented".

Zgonec-Rozej's barrister said that Jones had been a prominent barrister for more than a decade.

Before that, he had obtained a degree in politics, philosophy and economics from Oxford University, even though he had suffered an earlier mental breakdown at the age of 17.

Zgonec-Rozej, who is also a human rights lawyer, accepted that she had not raised specific concerns with medics that Jones was in a "bad way", but added: "He was under the hospital staff supervision and I thought they knew what they were doing. I thought they were observing him, I trusted that he was in a safe place." The widow also sued the Nightingale Hospital and another psychiatrist but those claims were settled confidentially before reaching court.

Gumbel said that those settlements did not cover Zgonec-Rozej's full claim, which has been valued at up to £5 million. The barrister said it was accepted, however, that, if the widow succeeded against Pereira, the court would have to give credit in any compensation award for the sums that have already been recovered.

In an obituary for Jones in Counsel magazine, Geoffrey Robertson KC, one of the founders of Doughty Street Chambers, said that his colleague had "represented some of the most demonised (and, it must be said, a few of the most demonic) defendants, always putting up the legal arguments they were entitled to make and thus ensuring that justice upon them would be seen to be done".

The case continues.

Hacked Off 'threatened investigator'

David Brown

A private investigator claimed yesterday that he was threatened by a representative of the Hacked Off campaign if he did not support its legal cases against newspapers.

Paul Hawkes told the High Court in London that he did only lawful work for the media but was accused of hacking the computer of Hugh Grant, the actor who is a founder of Hacked Off.

The Duke of Sussex is one of a number of prominent figures suing the publisher of the Daily Mirror over alleged unlawful information-gathering at its titles.

Hawkes, the boss of Research Associates, said that he was visited in 2017 by Dan Evans, a former reporter at the Sunday Mirror and News of the World who had been convicted of voicemail hacking. "Evans told me that if I was not willing to play ball, then they would destroy me/Research Associates through costly litigation. I understood 'they' to mean Hacked Off and their lawyers," he told the court in a witness statement.

Sly Bailey, the former chief executive of the publisher's parent company, Trinity Mirror, now known as Reach, told the court that the hacking was concealed from her and that the allegations were "a matter of great regret".

The trial continues.

We'll plant a tree for your loved one

Celebration Day on Sunday, May 28 is an annual event where the nation comes together to celebrate the people who are no longer with us. We're joining in by offering to plant commemorative trees for you, our readers, in the National Trust's woodland close to Dunham Massey.

The first 5,000 readers to apply will have a sapling planted for them free of charge. Scan the QR code or visit thetimes.co.uk/celebrationday



CELEBRATION DAY

In collaboration with National Trust

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The tragedy of Amis was to be envied by his dad
Giles Coren
Page 22

Comment

Conservatives should beware of the dogma

Party thrives by absorbing the best of liberalism and avoiding strident ideology — a lesson today's Tories must heed

William Hague



In the late 18th century, William Wilberforce and his fellow evangelicals founded, among many other societies, the Society for Superseding the Necessity of Climbing Boys in sweeping chimneys. Their pressure groups had wonderfully specific names — my favourite being the Friendly Female Society for the Relief of Poor, Infirm, Aged Widows, and Single Women of Good Character, Who Have Seen Better Days. They would have found today's brief slogans very shallow.

The pressure to stop young boys being forced up chimneys, including from Tory-aligned campaigners such as Wilberforce, ultimately led to the Chimney Sweepers Act of 1834, outlawing the practice. Some contemporaries no doubt saw this as what would now be called the "nanny state", but it is one tiny example of how conservatives always adapted their thinking to deal with industrial and social change. In Disraeli's time, the Factory Act and the Public Health Act were Tory laws. In the 20th century, Conservatives extended votes to all women, and I played my own small part in 1995 by authoring the Disability Discrimination Act.

The reason conservatism has been such an enduring force for centuries is this readiness to adapt to social change in ways that give more people a stake in national success, to enlarge opportunity and thereby its own political support, and to promote an innovative economy while protecting people from abuse. Conservatism is more of an anti-ideology than it is an ideology itself, searching for what works in practice rather than fitting some universal theory.

Last week's announcement that English schools have risen to fourth place in the world for children's ability to read is a classic example of such conservatism, reflecting the patient work of the schools minister Nick Gibb to employ synthetic phonics. He has championed a system that works well and that will broaden the opportunities of an entire generation, while being opposed by theorists of "progressive" education.

Conservatism at its best rejects abstract theories while building on good habits. It constantly widens its sense of community — moving from its origins in the landed gentry to embrace business and commerce, from large property-owners to small ones, from a homogenous party to the one that has propelled Britain's female or ethnic minority leaders to the top. It adapts by absorbing new liberal ideas in each generation and making them its own, as in David Cameron's great statement: "I don't support gay marriage despite being a Conservative. I support gay marriage because I'm a Conservative."

> Britain does not need or want such American cultural divisions

Conservatism can, of course, run into trouble. Encompassing beliefs in both national identity and a market economy, it has suffered splits and confusion when these conflict with each other — over the Corn Laws, tariff reform and, in a complicated way, Brexit. It encounters strong opposition when it seems ideological itself, which is how many people regarded Margaret Thatcher, although she was really bringing down socialist ideology and triumphed by spreading home and shared ownership to millions of new people. And since it is associated with national institutions and making things work well, it courts disaster if it is reckless with institutions and policies, which is why the period before Rishi Sunak took over was so devastatingly damaging to the Conservative Party.

These pitfalls on the one hand, and the constantly evolving nature of conservatism on the other, make defining universal principles for it a tricky affair, as last week's conference on National Conservatism seemed to prove. Watched from a distance in my case, it heard some good speeches and ideas, including on the increased importance of science and the role of government in promoting research and technology. But it also had the appearance of some people looking for an ideology when they would be better off not finding it. Conservatism endures when it instinctively shies away from polarisation and excessive certainty of views. For instance, the statement of founding principles of the conference emphasised the role of religion and the traditional family.

Religion can be a great spur to political activism, as with Wilberforce himself, but to conflate Christianity with conservatism is to bring American cultural divisions into a Britain that doesn't need or want them. Traditional families have many virtues but so do many non-traditional families and they should not be sent the signal that conservatism is not for them. British Conservatives are different from the American version — more socially liberal, more environmentally motivated, often more fiscally conservative. National Conservatism means — surprise, surprise — we're



William Wilberforce's thinking took account of industrial and social change

different. There are great challenges ahead for British Conservatives but working out how to divide the electorate with statements imported from elsewhere is not one of them.

Michael Gove, who gave a thoughtful speech to the conference warning against stridency, recently set out four challenges on which Tory thinkers should focus: a changing world economy in which resilience matters more; a sharpening issue of inequality; the polarisation of cultural and social life; and declining respect for institutions, such as parliament or the police — all requiring the rebuilding of community and authority.

Such thoughts are a good start in assembling an agenda for the renewal of conservatism. Possible answers to some of these issues will take Conservatives into difficult political territory. Rebuilding community and national identity, in place of the fractured identities of the so-called woke agenda, will need new ideas on volunteering and national service. Addressing inequality will mean confronting the yawning economic gap between generations and how to give younger people a stake in their country through ownership and success. That could well mean less generosity to their elders.

Above all, the greatest challenge for conservatism is how a political philosophy anchored in continuity, and learning from what actually works, can adapt to a world that is about to change at unprecedented speed. Today's gambling habits — or eating habits, or social media habits — have developed so quickly that knowing how to protect people without heavy-handed or counter-productive intervention is not easy. The rise of AI is likely to change profoundly the nature of work, thought and society, yet any effective regulation of it is bound to need international agreements.

This week's vexed political topic of record immigration is a good example of an issue changing at great speed and on a global scale. Every indicator of the future — political upheavals overseas, climate change, huge population growth in Africa — points to an age of mass migration in the coming years. National policies will matter but there will not be the slightest hope of controlling migration without strong international co-ordination.

If conservatism is to succeed for another generation, it will need all its pragmatism and adaptability, cultivating national strengths but in order to find international solutions. In finding them, ideology will not work and national identity will not be enough.

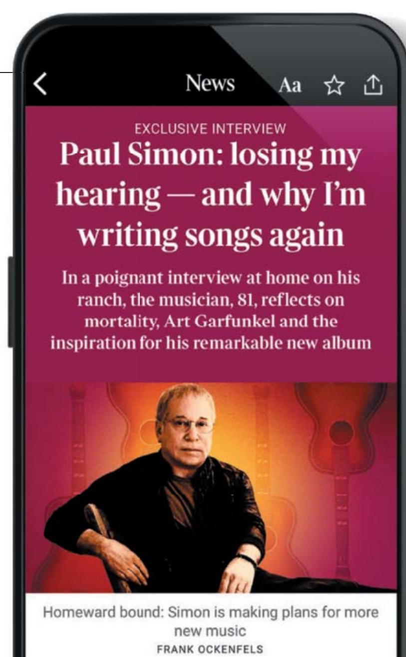
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Britain can't sustain this level of immigration

The government must address our reliance on cheap migrant labour and foreign students' cash

Melanie Phillips



@MELANIELATEST

This week the government will reportedly announce restrictions on some types of foreign students bringing their family members into the country. This is intended as a pre-emptive move to take the sting out of Thursday's release of official immigration figures, which are expected to show that last year some 700,000 more people came into the UK than left it.

This is an astronomical rise in net migration, after years of political promises to bring the influx down. The numbers have been swelled recently by Ukrainian refugees and Hongkongers fleeing the Chinese crackdown. But even when those are removed from the total, that still leaves around 500,000 immigrants a year. The problem long predates both those emergencies.

Suddenly, political leaders are scrambling to be seen to be doing something. Interviewed on the BBC's *Today* programme, the Labour leader, Sir Keir Starmer, said he wanted the numbers to come down. But when pressed on how he would achieve this, he waffled. He talked about a skills failure forcing employers to recruit from abroad and said he wanted British people trained to do those jobs. Terrific — but how would he get immigration figures down? Would he reduce the number of foreign students? No, he wanted foreign students to come. So how would he get numbers down? He wouldn't say.

Foreign students and their dependants are key to this crisis, along with foreign workers and their family members. The number of foreign workers' dependants — 155,343 — has almost tripled since 2019. This rise has been dwarfed, in turn, by foreign students and their families. In 2022, visas were granted to 485,758 students, who brought in an additional 135,788 dependants. This means that more than 22 per cent of study-related visas were issued to dependants, compared with 6 per cent in 2019. The government's proposed restriction on foreign students' families, which it believes will cut immigration numbers by 100,000, will reportedly be limited to those on certain types of course. Nevertheless, any such restriction has been fiercely opposed by the universities. That's hardly surprising. The universities now rely heavily upon the fees they charge foreign students. This has long distorted university priorities, making them dependent on countries such as China and excluding British students from prestigious universities.

> The UK is crying out for skills that don't need an academic course

Moreover, one anxiety in government is that some foreign students are, in the home secretary's words, "propping up, frankly, substandard courses in inadequate institutions". Once again, governments have been complicit in in this. Professor Brian Bell, chairman of the government's Migration Advisory Committee, told *Today*: "Most universities, for most courses, lose money on teaching British students and offset that loss by charging more for international students."

Governments don't give the universities enough money because there are now so many students. That's because of the decision taken decades ago to vastly increase the proportion of young people in higher education. This has been a bad mistake, since the country is crying out for skills that don't need an academic course. The expansion of higher education was done for ideological reasons to promote egalitarianism in university degrees.

Here's what's happened as a result. Universities can't afford to teach British students and take foreign ones instead. These help prop up sub-standard university courses for young people who aren't up to academic study and at the same time aren't being trained in the skills the country requires. So employers have to recruit workers from abroad — swelling immigration numbers — to fill the vacancies caused by the dearth of vital skills resulting from a policy of university expansion, which is being funded by students from abroad who are swelling immigration numbers. This is, to put it mildly, no way to run a railroad. What it signifies is the total absence of joined-up thinking over immigration and the needs of the country. For decades, politicians have flinched from discussing immigration because anyone who suggests that it should be reduced is automatically tarred and feathered as a racist, bigot and xenophobe. In addition, successive governments have used immigrant labour to dodge or conceal difficult policy choices they don't want to make. Instead of expanding medical school places and nurse training, doctors and nurses were imported from the developing world, thus also depriving those countries of expertise they themselves badly need.

On his Substack blog the politics professor Matthew Goodwin writes of "the two main parties which — like a drug dealer — got our economy and big businesses completely hooked on importing cheap migrant labour from abroad, removing any incentive for them to invest in British workers and innovation". Meanwhile, a near-record five million people in Britain are on out-of-work benefits.

The pressure from these immigrant numbers is unsustainable. Even if net migration were 250,000 to 300,000 a year, the equivalent of a city bigger than Birmingham would be added to the population every five years. Services are already foundering. The row between those who want to build houses on the green belt and those derided as nimbys misses the point. There aren't enough houses because of the population explosion.

Limited immigration is a good thing for a country. Without adequate controls, however, it simply can't cope with the numbers and loses its identity and social cohesion. It's not racist to call a halt to this; it's essential to responsible government.

Giles Coren Notebook

The tragedy of Amis was to be envied by his dad

The death of Martin Amis has affected me more deeply than I thought it would, given that I never met him or read any of his novels. Maybe it's just the "writer son of a well-known writer dies" that has got me. Along with the fact of his being considered so young, despite being four years older than my own father was when he, also a lifelong smoker, succumbed like Amis to a smoking-related cancer.

But I think it is mostly the irreverence and pettiness of the death notices that has upset me. All his life, Martin fought to be defined on his own terms and respected in his own right. And, in death, he turns out to have failed. For the overriding sense of the obituaries is that the novels were second-rate, bar one or two, but there was some excellent journalism. Which is feeble ammunition when it comes to blowing a novelist father like Kingsley Amis out of the water.

And by the second line, the obits are all on to his dad. Even now. The Independent goes so far as to dismiss Martin as a "nepo-baby", resorting to teenybop TikTok clichés to describe a dead man in his seventies. In death, no respect at all. Then it's the poor man's teeth, smirking references to his "stature" and his priapism — notable in the 1970s perhaps but monastic by modern standards. Even The Guardian, most po-facedly literary of papers, captioned Amis's front-page death image "Mick Jagger in literary form". So sad and dim and trivialising.



All this, of course, is his punishment for trying to outshine a father who never showed any public respect for his son either, but only envy and scorn — making Martin doubly vulnerable to the critics' brickbats in a way that I, thanks to the unquestioning loyalty and support of my own late father, have never been.

"I saw Martin Amis last night," my dad told me one morning in 2006. "And the first thing he said was, 'Do you feel threatened by Giles's success?' Isn't that sad? Can Kingsley really have been such a monster as to feel threatened by his son, or is Martin imagining it? I laughed, of course, and said I could never feel threatened by my favourite writer."

All anyone needs in early life is the love and admiration of his father. With that in the bank, the opinions of others are barely relevant. When I die, of course, the first thing to say (if anyone bothers to say anything) will be that I was Alan Coren's son. And as long as the next line isn't "by dying a traitor to the crown and known child abuser, Giles shamed his memory" then I will be happy with that. If only poor Martin could have been.

Beefy's bits

Ian Botham is to put up for sale such mementoes of a great career as his first cap for Somerset, the stump he famously grabbed after the 1981 Ashes win at Edgbaston and 200 other assorted souvenirs. No mention, though, of the objects that truly defined him as the pre-eminent sporting hero of my childhood: the stub of the cigar he smoked in the dressing room after his 149 at Headingley, the recording of him calling the MCC selectors "gin-swilling dodderers" and the bed he allegedly broke with Miss Barbados during England's 1986 tour of West Indies.

Speed-freak Suella

It is bizarre that Suella Braverman was so keen to do a speed awareness course on her own, because sitting in front of those maundering jobsworths in high vis for two hours while they tell you how just 1 mph can kill a hedgehog (or whatever) is a bore that can at least be mitigated (in my experience) by the jolliness of sitting at the back with the naughty ones making smart remarks and flirting.

It's like a class detention in that regard: no real stain on the character and actually more fun than going home to watch *Blue Peter*. But, honestly, trying to swing it so that you do detention *on your own*, just you and the beak, sitting there writing your lines, that is the mark of a weirdo. That is why Braverman must go.

THUNDERER

We need tech giants to be transparent about algorithms

Tracey Brown

The tragic case of Molly Russell highlighted the negative effect of skewed and unbalanced information on our perception of reality. Rarely is a single piece of "legal but harmful" content responsible for motivating someone to act, be it to harm themselves or others, or be "radicalised" in their views. Rather, it is the cumulative effect of reinforcing posts and stories that create an echo chamber for increasingly extreme thoughts.

Protecting internet users is about the entirety of what is shown: what we don't see is as important as what we do, with the absence of contradictory facts and opinions often more influential than repetition of ideas. But instead of taking the systemic risk-based approach promised in the original white paper, the Online Safety Bill is heading towards a crude censorship of the internet, which we have already seen result in the suppression of accurate information (about blood clots and vaccines) and important research during the pandemic.

Politicians have been sucked into a false debate about the degree of censorship that tech giants should be asked to implement — an impossible task when each item of content passes established legal thresholds, and a distraction from the real problem. Social media platforms don't just host user content, they actively control what gets seen by whom. It is they who pick up an obscure fake "Covid-free hospital" video from Texas and push it into the feeds of thousands.

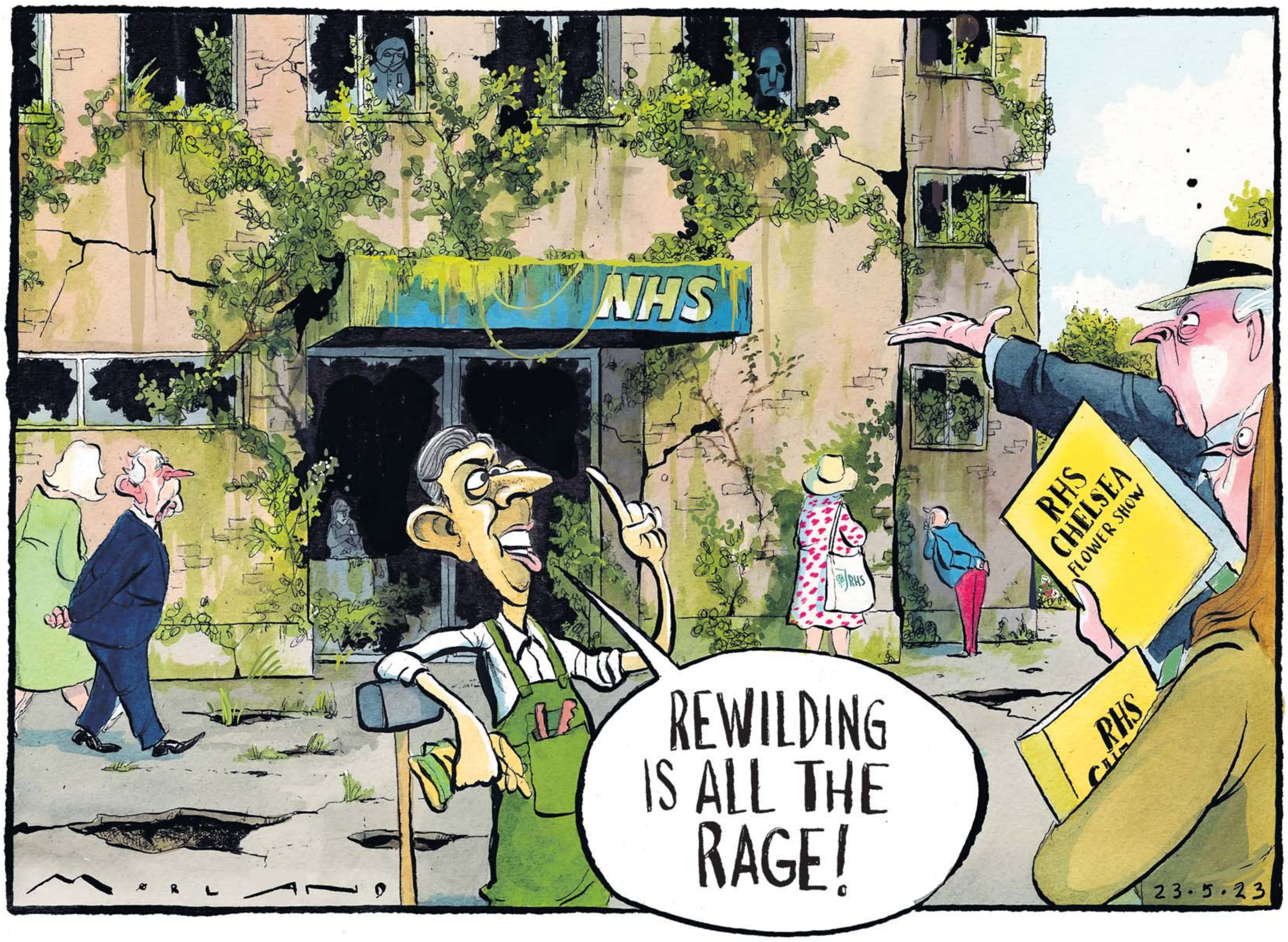
It is this activity for which they should be accountable. The real cause of harm results from this secretive manipulation of feeds for commercial gain, which includes vulnerable people being given a distorted picture on important health and social issues.

This bill is an opportunity to regulate that hidden curation. It is also a chance to ask what good curation should look like in a digital age.

Looking for "harmful but legal" content obfuscates the unregulated control that tech companies have over what we see. The bill should force tech giants to be transparent and limit how they select and feed content. This would also reverse a situation where Wikipedia — a decent source of reliable evidence for millions — is threatening to withdraw from the UK because it cannot meet the impossible demand never to publish anything inaccurate.

If we want platforms, and the effect they have on society, to change then we need to hold them accountable for what they are doing, not for what people are posting, however wrong-headed it may be.

Tracey Brown is director of Sense about Science, an independent charity that promotes the public interest in evidence



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Sorry, Rishi, you're to blame for Braverman

Prime minister vowed to restore seriousness and stability but retaining the home secretary fatally undermines that

Hugo Rifkind

@HUGORIFKIND

Let's start by floating two possibilities for the rest of this parliament. Ready? They are: a) that Suella Braverman eventually says or does something that means she can't stay in government; or b) that she doesn't. Now, ask yourself which seems more likely.

While you're pondering that, let's jump over to Rishi Sunak at the G7 summit in Hiroshima on Sunday. There he was, having just spent three days being one of the seven most important people in the free world, talking wars and jets and all that other big geopolitical stuff. Only, what's the first question he gets asked? Step forward the BBC's Chris Mason, asking about the Sunday Times story that Braverman sought help from civil servants over a speeding fine.

Sunak frowns. He winces. He drinks a glass of water. Even after that, though, his reply — "Do you have any questions about … the summit?" — still has all the thin and dangerous fury of Genghis Khan coming back to his war chariot to find it's got a wheel clamp. He's beyond all that stuff. He's above it. Except he's not.

Suella Braverman is a problem. She has always been a problem, and she still is. And yet this week some feel she is being smeared. "It is no coincidence," suggested the Conservative MP Miriam Cates, "that it's in the same week that she had been very vocal about the need to put proper limits on legal migration." The problem with this, though, is that it suggests some vast hinterland of other weeks when having Braverman in his government has caused Sunak no embarrassment at all.

Her current infraction, all that being said, doesn't seem a terribly big deal. Caught speeding, she asked her civil servants if they could arrange for her speed awareness course to be done privately. They said no. That's it. Call this "minister tries to dodge speeding fine" and it sounds terrible. Call it "minister asks innocent question" and it sounds like almost nothing at all. So maybe, sure, there really is some blobbish plot to get rid of the home secretary. Although if there isn't, I find myself wondering, why not?

> Sunak frowns: 'Do you have any questions about…the summit?'

Right at the top of Sunak's cabinet, remarkably enough, all three of the great offices of state are still occupied by people first put in place by Liz Truss. Granted, they don't have much else in common. James Cleverly, for example, is the cabinet equivalent of the bathroom you can't quite be bothered to change when you move into a new house. The toilet still flushes; it'll do for now. Jeremy Hunt, meanwhile, was technically a Truss appointment but having replaced the disastrous Kwasi Kwarteng as chancellor, he's better understood as a Sunak appointment who just got there early.

Braverman is a different kettle of fish. There were howls of dismay even in 2020 when Boris Johnson made her attorney-general, thanks to a previous attack on judges for ignoring politics. You might think this rather the point of judges, as indeed do they. She'd go on to suggest that governments were allowed to break international law and to declare that there had been nothing illegal about Dominic Cummings' infamous motorised eye-test, when not even the police, let alone the courts, had yet said any such thing. Rather than upholding the rule of law, she often sort of seemed to think she was the law. Like Judge Dredd.

Few were surprised when Truss made her home secretary, faithful as it was to the overarching Truss philosophy of doing the worst thing whenever possible. You may recall, though, she was actually forced to resign from that cabinet at the height of its dysfunction because of some baffling scandal about an email. Ask even seasoned Westminster hacks what happened there and they're liable to wince and shrug. As if some political shenanigans are too twisted for human ken, like the Upside Down in *Stranger Things*. That Sunak opted to reappoint her, a mere six days later, cuts right to the heart of his biggest problem. "This government will have integrity, professionalism and accountability at every level," he'd just said, and this was no mere John Major-style "back to basics" hostage to fortune. Because he knew, Sunak, what he had to do.

> Her reappointment cuts right to the heart of his biggest problem

He knew that the great Tory drift into unseriousness, which beleaguered Theresa May and was exploited by Boris Johnson, had continued, under Truss, to slam the British economy into a wall. He knew that his party's reputation was at rock bottom and he knew that a large part of the reason for that was personnel. And so, alongside the five pledges to the British people he eventually came up with, there has always been a sixth unspoken one. Which is something to do with no longer letting government be dominated by the sort of characters who, as the Twitter meme has it, would struggle to get out of Willy Wonka's factory alive.

The trouble is, he doesn't quite have the guts. He didn't have them right at the start, when the Truss project had flailed off into the sun and he could have done almost anything. And he certainly doesn't have them now, when the challenges to his authority have become so routine that his own cabinet ministers get to deliver them from the stage at rival conferences to which he isn't even invited.

So yes, up there on his own stage in Hiroshima, fresh from trying to avert World War Three, I've no doubt he thought it maddening, dim and trivial that he was being bothered with any of this nonsense. It is he, though, who made the mistake of inviting the nonsense back into government, exactly when it was at its weakest — and he who still seems to lack the courage to knock it on the head. And when you mess up, as Braverman has learnt, you can't dodge the penalty. It's just a question of how you pay.

Letters to the Editor

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1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF**

Students would be enfeebled by AI

Sir, The problem with artificial intelligence applied to academic study is that it appears to present knowledge on a plate (letter, report and leading article, May 22). This makes it less likely that pupils (or university students) will bother to think for themselves or choose to read around a topic. They will be enfeebled.

AI also encourages cheating if teachers and lecturers ask for answers written outside the classroom. Maybe it spells the end of coursework essays. Never mind: old-fashioned invigilated exams are probably better anyway because they are fairer (no help from teachers, parents or AI) and students are forced to memorise work, which is a fundamental characteristic of good education. Practical and creative subjects such as art, drama, music, PE and design technology have less to fear. Finally, AI comes at you through a screen. Children spend too long facing screens as it is and the two years of the pandemic have shown that learning through a screen is pretty soul-destroying compared with engagement with a bright, energetic human being standing at the front of a classroom.
Barnaby Lenon
Dean of education, University of Buckingham

Sir, Alan Pateman-Jones (letter, May 22) complains that school pupils are not rewarded for original thought. Similar complaints were common among medieval teachers. Egbert of Liège, for example, bemoans the state of education in the 11th century: "Scholarly effort is in decline everywhere as never before. Indeed, cleverness is shunned at home and abroad." Plus ça change.
Lucy Solomon
English teacher, London N2

Green, green grass

Sir, It is pity that Rae Baines did not consider turning most of his large lawn into a wildflower meadow and purchasing a robotic mower to cut the rest (letter, May 22). Not only would that have been better for the environment, it would also have been less expensive, more attractive and beneficial to his soul.
Robert Saunders
Balcombe, W Sussex

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Braverman and her speed awareness course

Sir, Whether claims that Suella Braverman broke the ministerial code are a smear or a "mega-distraction" is not really the point ("Sunak seeks verdict of ethics chief on Braverman 'code breach'", May 22). No matter what we think of the ministerial code and its interpretation, which is a matter for the independent adviser on ministerial standards, surely ministers can understand that standards in public life include honesty, integrity and leadership? If the claims turn out to be true under further investigation then it rather looks like another resignation. This would not be a cause to celebrate but just another day when our politics tips further into disrepute. I look forward to the day when the behaviour of our elected representatives is not fodder for political mud-slinging.
Dr Jane Martin
Member, Committee on Standards in Public Life 2017-22; Cheltenham

Sir, The behaviour of Suella Braverman over her speeding offence should be contrasted with that of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who was also caught speeding. One of them admitted the offence, accepted the consequences and no one has made that big a deal of it. The other tried to use civil servants to obtain special treatment, failed in that and is now the centre of a press storm and a possible inquiry into a breach of the ministerial code. There is a lesson here about actions and consequences.
Deborah Rubli
Chichester

Sir, We are told that Rishi Sunak is consulting his "ethics chief" about the behaviour of his colleague Suella Braverman. That the prime minister requires guidance as to whether or not the conduct of a cabinet colleague is acceptable is a sad reflection on the state of our politics today.
John McCutcheon
Edinburgh

Sir, As a member of the Lib Dems I am usually happy to support reasonable attacks on the government. However, whatever one's opinion of Suella Braverman, she is a minister of the crown and has better ways of spending her time than attending a speed awareness course. Hence it seems reasonable for her to have asked if the course could come to her. It appears that this was not possible, so she paid the fine and accepted the points. To have an investigation into this storm in a teacup would also seem a great waste of time.
Michael Morton
Redbourn, Herts

Sir, I feel an unexpected wave of sympathy for Suella Braverman. The inconvenience of attending the speed awareness course is supposed to be part of the punishment, but the humiliation of it for a minister would be disproportionate — and all the others attending that day would have a story to dine out on for years, so they would be rewarded rather than punished, which would also be wrong.
Mike Thexton
Richmond, Surrey

Sir, As a lawyer specialising in traffic offences I am always heartened to see the majesty of road traffic law treat a government minister the same as the man on the Earlsfield Omnibus. Both are required to do penance at a speed awareness course alongside their fellow citizens. It's something that I imagine happens in few other nations and for that we should be grateful. No Soviet-style Zil lanes in England.
Julian Hunt
London SW18

Improving the NHS

Sir, There is a great deal to learn — both good and bad — from the last time Labour published ambitious plans to revive the NHS ("Starmer: I'll meet all big NHS targets in my first term as PM", May 22). The 2000 NHS Plan set out a vision supported with extensive policy changes and much increased funding. Crucially, it was developed through a collaborative process involving people from all parts of the NHS and some of its partners. This built enough momentum and goodwill to carry through some very controversial policy changes, such as the use of the private sector. There was, however, too much focus on hitting numerical targets for example, and not enough on wider quality and ensuring that roles and training were fit for the future. There needs to be a renewed emphasis on people: a well-supported and educated workforce is the key to the future.
Lord Crisp
Chief executive, English NHS 2000-06

Sir, Some years ago Alan Bennett was asked about his sexuality and replied that it was a bit like asking a man crawling across the Sahara whether he would prefer Perrier or Malvern water. I feel much the same way when I read about leaders on both sides of politics talking about more "choice" in the NHS ("NHS app to let patients book private healthcare", May 22). At the moment people cannot even get an ambulance when they are having a heart attack. No one I know has succeeded in seeing an NHS GP face to face in three years; the last time I tried, the receptionist told me that there would never be an appointment available no matter how long I waited.

People who are sick or worried just want some kind of effective healthcare. We are not picky about where, how or from whom we get it.
Anne-Louise Crocker
Shoreham, Kent

Classic errors

Sir, As someone who listens to Classic FM whenever I'm in the car, the reason for its fall in listeners is clear: the station plays the same movements, same pieces and same composers, over and over — I once heard them play the same piece on three consecutive days ("Classic FM off-key with listeners", May 22). There is so much classical music out there that it is baffling why Classic FM plays only a select group. As for involving younger listeners, the best way to achieve this would be to give young people their own slot to input their favourite classical music. This would educate adults too, and attract new listeners.
Sigal Nachshen (age 14)
London NW11

Matter of debate

Sir, Doug Clark suggests there should be "national inter-school debating contests, with a (possibly televised) final" (letter, May 22). This already exists. The English Speaking Union was founded in 1918, and its Public Speaking Competition is just that, with hundreds of schools participating in debates each year. The group's website also shows videos of "grand final" speeches. I can vouch from my own experience that this was one of the most terrifying, yet rewarding, things I did at school; the confidence it gave me has been invaluable to me over the past 40 years.
Chris Broyden
Richmond, Surrey

NEW BATHING COSTUMES IN THE SHOPS

FROM THE TIMES MAY 23, 1923

In spite of the rain yesterday summer buying was in steady progress at the London shopping centres. There are many visitors this week and their purchases, of which a good percentage is piece goods, are helping to make up for losses due to the weather. There is a steady demand for bathing dresses both from the early holiday-makers and from women who go to the swimming baths. The early show of these garments is usually of the sensible variety, and it is only later in the season when the patrons of Deauville and other "dipping" resorts begin to choose their garments that the exotic bathing gown appears. At Debenham and Freebody, Wigmore Street, there is a good selection of "swimmers" showing the newest ideas: A taffeta tunic over a stockinette "swimmer" is finding favour, the "swimmer" having bars of colour down each side. This is available in good colours. A spun silk "swimmer" shot in yellow and brown silk and orange or black and red is also effective. Black milanese is always a favourite swimming fabric and some of the new models have an apron effect, trimmed with coloured braid. Bathing capes are about the only garments to reflect everyday fashions, and they are made with plaited collars to give a padded look, in orange, cerise, jade, white, sky, and saxe. The new bathing caps are quite pretty with garlands of coloured rubber fruit. Shoes in white or black satin are in favour, though those who bathe from a nice sandy beach cannot be bothered with them. Elaborate satin boots, with rubber and suede soles, are a luxury more for French than for English resorts.

Amber-coloured silk stockings are in much request lately for wear with patent shoes, and the London Holeproof Hose Company, Duke Street (near Selfridges), are selling an excellent silk stocking, "Princess Holeproof", at 10s 11d a pair, or three pairs for 32s 9d. Where three pairs are bought there is a guarantee against holes, and "ladders" for two months. Sand and beaver are also favourite shades, and any special shade can be provided in 48 hours without extra charge. The toes and heels are specially strengthened, and the wear and tear of the modern shoe can be obviated by choosing stockings that have been designed to meet its weaknesses.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

Reliance on radio

Sir, Having spent some of my BBC career on speech and drama programmes mostly transmitted on Radio 4, I agree with Libby Purves about the content and scheduling of the network ("Podcasts diminish Radio 4's unique voice", May 22). The BBC has hinted that it would eventually like to apply online transmissions to all broadcasting. Apart from the unreliable nature of broadband coverage in some areas, I tend to listen to speech or music on the radio in the room when moving from place to place in the house while cooking, cleaning, ironing or just pottering. As it is not practical to carry a laptop, tablet or phone around all day, I miss out on what appear to be some of the most interesting items. If there have to be podcasts, they should be made available on the terrestrial network as well, otherwise the universal nature of the BBC's coverage is called into question.
Amanda Lunt
Chichester

Prince of print

Sir, Martin Amis (obituary, May 22) was a friend and in the 1970s I owned the media rights to the *The Rachel Papers*, bought from him with £10,000 provided by the National Film Finance Corporation. Martin wrote the script, Rowan Atkinson was cast in the lead role and Albert Finney was executive producer. It proved an impossible task. The brilliance and humour of the book reside in Martin's words on the page and would not translate into the physical action of film.

After three years we threw in the towel and Martin used his fee to finance a trip to India.
Rick Stroud
London SW10

Sir, Martin Amis did not invent the concept of the "murderee" in *London Fields* in 1989, as Andrew Billen writes (May 22). DH Lawrence did in his 1920 novel *Women in Love*: "It takes two people to make a murder: a murderer and a murderee. And a murderee is a man who is murderable."
Dr John Doherty
Stratford-upon-Avon

Nocturnal widdling

Sir, Oliver Moody's article deserves an additional medical comment ("German men take a stand for sitting to spend a penny", May 22). Occasionally men who get out of bed in the middle of the night to pass urine may experience a sudden, severe drop in blood pressure causing loss of consciousness (micturition syncope), resulting in a fall and injury. Furthermore, if this condition is misdiagnosed the sufferer could be banned from driving. Hence, whatever a nation's diurnal male widdling conventions might be, mature men should certainly be advised to sit when passing urine in the night.
Dafydd Thomas
Professor emeritus of clinical neuroscience, Imperial College

Sir, The Germans cannot claim bragging rights in the matter of being *sitzpinklers*. As long ago as the 5th century BC the Greek historian Herodotus reported, with some astonishment and possibly even mild disgust, that in Egypt women urinated standing up, the men seated. Seated on what, he did not state, his point being that Egypt was a world turned upside down: they didn't just do things differently there.
Professor Paul Cartledge
Clare College, Cambridge

Daily Universal Register

Brazil: James Cleverly, the foreign secretary, completes a four-country tour with a stop in Brazil, where he will sign a climate partnership on green and inclusive growth

Nature notes



In the woodland understorey a bare, fallen branch lay at an angle over a carpet of green dog's mercury. Leafless and long dead, it might have been hard to identify the tree from which the branch had fallen had it not been for the translucent brown, rubbery, lobed fungus protruding from halfway along its length. This was jelly ear or wood ear fungus, which is often seen on dead elder wood — and so it proved to be in this case. Jelly ear can freeze solid in winter and then continue growing when thawed; dried, it can reconstitute in water. MELISSA HARRISON

Birthdays today



Dame Joan Collins, *pictured*, actress, *Dynasty* (1981-89), *The Stud* (1978), 90; **Richard Ayoade**, comedian and actor, *The IT Crowd* (2006-13), 46; **Johnny Ball**, actor and TV presenter, *Play School* (1964-88), 85; **William Barr**, US attorney-general (1991-93, 2019-20), 73; **Rubens Barrichello**, racing driver, Formula One (1993-2011), 51; **Craig Brown**, satirist, 66; **Henry Mountcharles, Marquess Conyngham**, chairman, Slane Castle, 72; **Ryan Coogler**, screenwriter and film director, the Black Panther film series (2018, 2022), 37; **Very Rev John Drury**, chaplain and fellow, All Souls College, University of Oxford, 87; **Dan Evans**, tennis player, British No 2, 33; **Christopher Finney** GC, former Blues and Royals soldier, awarded the George Cross in 2003, 39; **Graeme Hick**, England cricketer (1991-2001), 57; **Richard Hill**, rugby union player, England player (1997-2008), 50; **Lady Olga Maitland**, Conservative MP (1992-97), chief executive, Money Transfer International (2008-14), 79; **Ian Kennedy Martin**, TV scriptwriter creator, *The Sweeney* (1974-78), 87; **Robert Warren Miller**, entrepreneur, co-founder of DFS (Duty Free Shops), 90; **Bob Mortimer**, comedian, *Shooting Stars* (1993-2011), 64; **John Newcombe**, tennis player, winner of seven grand-slam singles titles and 17 doubles titles, 79; **George Osborne**, chairman, British Museum, and investment banker with Robey Warshaw, editor, Evening Standard (2017-20), Conservative MP (2001-17), chancellor of the exchequer (2010-16), 52; **Xander Parish**, ballet dancer, the first British dancer to become a principal at the Mariinsky Ballet, St Petersburg, 37; **Heidi Range**, singer-songwriter, Sugababes, *Push the Button* (2005), 40; **Michel Roux Jr**, chef patron, Le Gavroche, 63; **Sir Pascal Soriot**, chief executive, AstraZeneca, 64; **Dame Janet Thornton**, molecular biologist, director, European Bioinformatics Institute (2001-15), 74; **Matt Wrack**, general secretary, Fire Brigades Union, 61.

On this day

In **1966** the prime minister, Harold Wilson, declared a state of emergency a week after the National Union of Seamen began a strike. Measures included the capping of food prices and allowing the Royal Navy to control ports. The strike ended on May 29.

The last word

"What spectacle can be more edifying or more seasonable, than that of Liberty & Learning, each leaning on the other for their mutual & surest support?" James Madison, US president, letter to WT Barry, (1822)

Unhealthy Plans

Both Labour and the Tories are guilty of excessive timidity in their plans to tackle the crisis in the health system

For what all sides agree is one of the greatest challenges facing the country, what is most dispiriting is the lack of ideas. Both the Tories and Labour have rightly identified the crisis in the NHS as a critical issue before the next election. For Rishi Sunak, reducing NHS waiting times is one of his five priorities. For Sir Keir Starmer, "building an NHS fit for the future" is one of his five "missions" and the subject of a speech marking the publication of a policy document. Yet both the prime minister and the Labour leader offer remarkably similar prescriptions for the crisis, relying heavily on technology and patient choice in where they are treated to address backlogs and improve efficiency.

There's no question that technology must and will have a role to play in reducing waiting times. In an announcement yesterday that appeared designed to upstage Sir Keir, the government promised to upgrade the NHS app to allow patients to shop around for shorter waits, including allowing them to be treated in private hospitals. That is a sensible approach that Labour would adopt too. But Sir Keir is entitled to point out that the Conservatives have had 13 years to improve patient choice, during which time NHS performance has deteriorated on every metric, a downturn that pre-dated the pandemic. And despite the app's success during the pandemic, there has been little attempt to build on it since.

Nonetheless, technology and patient choice can only help ease the strain at the margins in a system suffering extreme capacity pressures. Sir Keir set out bold targets yesterday for reducing waiting times, and unlike Sunak was willing to put a deadline on them. They included reducing ambulance waiting times to seven minutes for cardiac arrests ensuring that all patients are seen by a doctor within four hours of arriving at A&E, and making sure all planned hospital treatments are carried out within 18 weeks. These are to be achieved within five years. Given that they were the targets achieved under the last Labour government, they should be achievable, though Sir Keir admits that more money will be needed.

There are clear lacunae in both parties' plans, though. The most glaring is social care. There is a consensus across the political spectrum that without a plan to treat people with long-term conditions in their communities, it will be impossible to free up capacity in the hospital system. The Tories won the 2019 election claiming to have a fully worked-up plan to tackle the crisis in social care and Jeremy Hunt, in his previous role as chairman of the Commons health committee, was clear that there could be no NHS revival without it. Yet in his first budget, the chancellor chose to prioritise childcare instead. Sir Keir is similarly promising to integrate health and social care, but has yet to offer a plan for delivery.

A second lacuna concerns public health. Sir Keir is right to prioritise mental health treatment. He has promised 8,500 new mental health professionals, including specialist help in schools, and has set a welcome target to reduce the number of suicides. But he said less about other lifestyle-related pressures on the NHS. Beyond a promise to ban advertising of vapes, junk food and sugary snacks to children, a decision ducked by the Tories, Labour has similarly ruled out using taxes to tackle the obesity epidemic that underlies much of the nation's rising ill-health, to avoid being accused of adding to cost of living pressures.

Indeed, there is an unfortunate timidity in both parties' approaches to the health system. Neither the Tories nor Labour will contemplate radical structural reforms to boost productivity, or contemplate alternative funding models. Yet such is the scale of the crisis that new thinking is urgently needed. The Times Health Commission, which will report later this year, aims to provide it.

Must Do Better

Ministers are failing to grip the problem of chronic pupil absence

The pandemic has bequeathed many unwelcome legacies, including long Covid and an increase of some 400,000 working-age people subsisting on long-term sickness benefits. But of equal concern is the rise in the number of so-called ghost children, pupils who are absent from school for at least half of the time. According to the most recent figures, there are 125,000 of them, double the number in the immediate pre-pandemic period. And, like the increase in sickness, this worrying phenomenon is both poorly understood and the subject of government complacency.

Ghost children are those classed as "severely absent". But the number designated "persistently absent" is far bigger. These are pupils who miss more than a tenth of their allotted school time, and there are no fewer than 1.7 million of them. Robin Walker, Conservative chairman of the Commons education committee, calls these numbers "alarming", and the Centre for Social Justice think tank says they are a "wake-up call". Ministers, however, appear to be dozing on the job. A pilot scheme targeting severely absent pupils has reached just over 1 per cent of them.

Exactly what has persuaded a significant number of parents that education is an optional extra rather a moral and legal obligation is unclear. Lockdown, with long periods of enforced absence from the classroom, has broken the spell of regular attendance. And it has created, or laid bare, mental health problems in some children that remain unresolved. But Dame Rachel de Souza, the children's commissioner for England, believes that only half of persistent absences are due to illness. Lockdown seems to have created a permanently permissive culture in which, for example, taking the day off to spend with a parent who is unemployed or working from home is acceptable, or at least penalty-free. Unsurprisingly, Friday is the worst day for no-shows.

This is damaging in a host of ways. Severely absent children are most at risk of becoming both the perpetrators and victims of crime. Inevitably, they are more likely to perform poorly in exams, resulting in permanent damage to their prospects. There is also the more subtle damage inflicted by estrangement from the school world. A child may become progressively more of an outsider in the classroom as they fall behind, and in the playground as well.

Absence is more common in deprived areas. In Middlesbrough and Bradford, more than one pupil per secondary school class is missing most of the time. Children on free school meals are more at risk. Persistent absenteeism had fallen after a crackdown on holidays in term time, but this muscular approach appears to have waned. Michael Gove, the levelling up secretary, has suggested docking benefits for offending families. France is unforgiving: children missing too much school without reason must repeat the year.

To fix the problem, the government is relying on a new network of "attendance hubs" that will assign mentors to absentee pupils. But this so far covers only 1,700 children. The Treasury has clawed back £100 million intended for emergency tuition during the pandemic. Surely this money should be going into more mentors. This appears to be a problem requiring more carrot and more stick. Certainly, it demands more attention. Ministers appear to score a B on awareness but a C-minus on action. They must do better.

Planting the Future

Trees are not only pollution killers, they can connect generations

"The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago," runs a Chinese proverb. "The second-best time is now." We know this to be true, climate science tells us so. Trees clean the air we breathe, forests are the lungs of the land, the lockers-up of carbon and the providers of leafy shelter for wildlife.

They have an emotional function too, turning the planting of a sapling — a tree that is likely to outlive us — into a kind of contract with our children and grandchildren. It is a combination of these factors that has prompted The Times to mark this year's Celebration Day, next Sunday, with a campaign to plant 5,000 trees. The National Trust has pledged to select and implant this number of trees for Times readers.

What is to be celebrated? The memory of lost loved ones. The pandemic that swept through our families left many bereaved, still searching for ways to fill the gap left by the virus.

Trees are not a trivial memorial. They are more than a seed that grows into a stem, then a living trunk and ending as dead timber. A grown tree, wrote the French author and aviator Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, "is a slow, enduring force straining to win the sky". The stuff of fortitude and a confident future.

The National Trust has set itself an ambitious target to plant 20 million trees by 2030. At their peak the trees will store about 300,000 tonnes of carbon a year. One million donated saplings have already been dug into the ground — oak, beech, crab apple trees. The Times plantation will help. Young trees, of course, have to be properly tended. There is a case for visiting a donated tree in its first five vulnerable years, to clean weeds, to mulch and check ties: that too can be part of honouring the memory of a friend or family member. After the protracted misery of Covid, this is a worthy way of celebrating the joy of spring.

World

Anti-Putin partisans take the war back into Russia

Ukraine
Maxim Tucker Kyiv

Fighters backed by tanks and claiming to represent an anti-Putin militia stormed checkpoints on the Russian border yesterday before pushing five miles deeper and overrunning three villages.

The GUR, Ukraine's military intelligence, told The Times that the Freedom of Russia Legion, a group of Russian partisans backed by Kyiv, were conducting an operation in the Belgorod region aimed at bringing down President Putin. It was being carried out exclusively by Russian citizens, Andriy Yusov, a GUR spokesman, said.

"Today in the Russian Federation, Russian citizens took up arms," he said. "It is the next stage of fighting against Putin's regime. This is the biggest unrest in Russia to date. They have ambitious political objectives: regime change and bringing the criminal Putin and his regime to justice."

He said the struggle would also unfold on "other territories of today's Russian Federation".

Drone video posted to Telegram by Ukrainian military channels showed shells blasting Russian border posts and columns of fighting vehicles, including Humvees, surging down the road into Russia. One appeared to show a tank driving through a border post, firing at Russian positions.

Another showed a Russian helicopter flying at low altitude over the area, trailing flares to combat anti-aircraft missiles. Ukrainian forces later reported shooting down an Mi-8 helicopter north of Belgorod city. Fighting was also reported in Dronovka, 25 miles to the north.

The Freedom of Russia Legion said on Telegram that it had "liberated" the village of Kozinka and entered Graivoron with another group, the Russian Volunteer Corps. It added: "We are Russians just like you. We are distinguished only by the fact that we no longer want to justify the actions of criminals in power and took up arms to defend our and your freedom. Today is the time for everyone to take responsibility for their future. It's time for the Kremlin's dictatorship to end."

One video showed a bearded soldier smiling to the sound of outgoing artillery fire and repeating altered lyrics to a Russian punk rock song called *Everything is Going According to Plan*: "The key to the border is broken in half and grandpa Putin will soon [be long dead and] probably melt into honey."

Vyacheslav Gladkov, governor of the Belgorod region, blamed "a sabotage and reconnaissance group of the Ukrainian armed forces" for the attack. He said an "anti-terror regime" would take effect in Belgorod, giving increased powers to security services and placing restrictions on the public.

At least six people were injured by shrapnel in the attack, he said, urging people to evacuate the area.

Although Russian partisan units have made two previous forays across the border this was the first time they have attempted to seize settlements with heavy artillery and hold them. The assault prompted civilians to flee en masse from the border area, with videos on social media showing chaotic traffic jams and columns of buses on the move.

The GUR spokesman insisted that Ukrainian forces were not involved in the attack, but that they shared with the partisans a "unified vision of Putin's criminal war against Ukraine" and the need for a "democratisation of Russia".

He added: "What is happening highlights the need to create a demilitarised zone outside the territory of Ukraine on the border territories of Russia, where no military will threaten Ukraine nor the population of the territories of the Russian Federation."

He claimed that the Russians had evacuated a site for the storage of nuclear weapons in the area.

Intelligence documents leaked online last month by the US airman Jack Teixeira suggest Ukraine had been planning a similar operation for some time. "Ukraine provides comprehensive support to Russian volunteers ready to liberate Russian territories from President Putin's tyranny by armed means. Such detachments are equipped with various qualitative types of Nato weapons; the personnel has passed respective training for usage of such weapons and has successful combat experience from various parts of the frontline in Ukraine," one document reads.

"The reporting speaks of volunteer infiltration operations into Bryansk, Kursk and Belgorod oblasts being planned for March-April 2023 in order to seize control over territories and declare newly created states. It is also planned to begin the formation of a larger military component based on volunteers to create a civil war front in Russia."

A senior aide to President Zelensky issued a tongue-in-cheek denial that Kyiv had any role in yesterday's operation. "Ukraine is watching the events in the Belgorod region of Russia with interest and studying the situation, but it has nothing to do with it," Mykhailo Podolyak tweeted. "As you know, tanks are sold at any Russian military store, and underground guerrilla groups are composed of Russian citizens.

"The Russian liberation movement can become something that will contribute to the correct end of the war in Ukraine and significantly speed up the beginning of transformational events in the Russian political elite. The Russian violent resistance movement, whose architects are exclusively citizens of Russia itself, is gradually coming out of the underground. They are independent in their decisions, have certain experience, and are free from fear."

Podolyak added that Russia's war on Ukraine was "gradually returning to Russia itself".

Additional reporting by George Grylls



Kremlin critic dies on flight

Samantha Berkhead

A Russian deputy minister and critic of President Putin's invasion of Ukraine fell ill and died from an unexplained cause on a flight home from Cuba at the weekend.

The aircraft carrying Pyotr Kucherenko, 46, deputy science and higher education minister, made an emergency landing in Mineralnye Vody, where doctors tried unsuccessfully to save his life.


Kucherenko denounced the war as a "fascist invasion"

Kucherenko had earlier told an independent journalist, Roman Super, that it was "no longer possible" for him to leave the country. Several top Russian officials have died in mysterious circumstances in recent months after criticising the Kremlin.

Analysis

The cross-border attack bears all the hallmarks of another audacious operation by the GUR, Ukraine's military intelligence agency, and suggests that Kyiv is now in the final phase of its preparation for a counter-offensive (Maxim Tucker writes).

The daylight incursion, heavily publicised across Ukrainian social media with leaked military drone footage, was timed to coincide with a video issued by Major General Kyrylo Budanov, the GUR's commander, instructing Russian soldiers to surrender.

The men who carried out the raid were Russian, but they were wearing Ukrainian camouflage, holding Nato-standard rifles and driving American-made Humvees into battle, under the watchful eye of Ukrainian reconnaissance teams.

It was left to the GUR to brief the media on the operation, by far the largest and most aggressive of three publicised border raids to date.

Loud proclamations of bringing liberation from President Putin cannot be taken seriously at this stage, but the Kremlin cannot ignore the threat that a Russian partisan force, supported by heavy artillery, armour and fighting vehicles, poses to the northern half of its border with Ukraine.

Putin faces a dilemma. If he does not pull troops back into Russia to defend those 300 miles, he signals to his people that the tsar they thought all-powerful cannot even protect their border. Yet if he brings back the thousands of troops necessary to safeguard it properly, he thins out defensive lines in the south just as Ukraine prepares to land its counterpunch.

This is almost certainly Budanov's goal — cause chaos, provoke fear and keep the Russians moving demotivated, distracted troops around a wide defensive arc, burning fuel and tangling logistics lines.

Pictures of flags saying "Belgorod People's Republic" draw wry smiles in Kyiv. Nine years after Putin established the faux Donetsk and Luhansk people's republics as cover for his hybrid war, the tactic is being used against him. Tongue-in-cheek remarks by Ukrainian officials that the equipment used by the partisans is available in "any good Russian shop" mimic the Kremlin's outrageous denials of involvement in the seizure of Crimea and parts of the Donbas in 2014.

All this may provoke alarm in western capitals, ever fearful of the Russian threat to escalate. Ukraine has had to promise repeatedly not to strike back at Russia, but Kyiv's overarching concern is to win the war and minimise the loss of Ukrainian life. It is gambling that support will survive implausible deniability in an effort to save thousands of soldiers from an advance into heavily defended Russian lines in southern Ukraine.

Despite Moscow's aerial bombardments of cities, the loss of control of Bakhmut and countless ruined lives, the mood in Kyiv is upbeat. Having fought for so long with one hand tied behind its back, the GUR has found a clever way to hit the Kremlin where it hurts — at home.


Heavily armed partisans opposed to

Nord Stream blasts may have been Kyiv's doing

Germany
Oliver Moody Berlin

German investigators are sceptical of claims that Russian naval ships sabotaged the Nord Stream gas pipelines and instead are pursuing leads that point to the authorities in Ukraine.

Three of the four strands of the pipelines, built to transport Russian gas to Germany on the bed of the Baltic Sea, were knocked out by explosions last September, severing the main energy link between the two countries.

The perpetrator has not been identi-

Château rescue scheme crumbling
Page 29



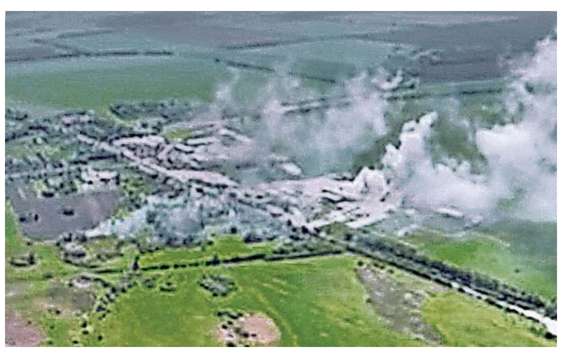
‘Heroic’ Italian farmers flood fields to save town
Page 30

RUSSIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS; ARMED FORCES OF UKRAINE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES









President Putin’s war said they had held villages on Russian soil for the first time, as fighting rages on in Bakhmut, top

fied, despite separate investigations by Germany, Sweden and Denmark.

The vacuum of official information has been filled by speculation variously pinning the blame on the United States, Russia, Ukrainian secret services and an unnamed businessman in Ukraine. All three states deny responsibility.

Seymour Hersh, the American journalist, argued that the attack was arranged by the CIA, but numerous inaccuracies and inconsistencies have since emerged in the theory.

In recent months much attention has been paid to the movements of Russian navy vessels near the blast sites in the months before the sabotage. The last visit was five days before the blasts.

Critics of this thesis maintain that the Putin regime had little interest in disabling one of the main limbs of its energy leverage over Europe. Proponents say Russia would have wanted to send a warning signal to the West about the vulnerability of critical infrastructure at sea. They also argue that blowing up its own pipelines in international waters near the Danish island of Bornholm would have allowed Moscow to claim plausible deniability.

Now it has emerged that the German Federal Office of Criminal Investigation, loosely the equivalent of America’s FBI, is said to be exploring leads implicating Ukraine.

A group of investigative journalists in Germany, Poland, Sweden and Denmark have claimed that German investigators examined Russian naval manoeuvres and were unconvinced that they could explain the sabotage. Instead, they are said to be concentrating on Andromeda, a yacht hired by a mysterious Polish company from the northern German port of Rostock weeks before the attack.

The yacht is believed to have docked in the marina on the tiny Danish island of Christianso — northeast of Bornholm and within a few dozen miles of where the three bombs went off — in the days before the sabotage. Traces of “military-grade and underwater-deployable” explosives were found onboard later. The theory argues that five men and a woman travelled to Germany on forged Bulgarian and Romanian passports and then used the yacht as a platform for a pair of divers to plant the bombs about 70 metres deep.

German authorities think the attack could have been carried out only with help from a state security service and they have uncovered evidence that may point to Ukrainian involvement, according to the Süddeutsche Zeitung newspaper and its partner news organisations.

The trail is said to lead to a shell company founded by two Ukrainians in Warsaw, ostensibly as a travel bureau. The report also suggested that German police had focused on two other unidentified Ukrainian citizens, respectively from towns near Kyiv and Odesa, as possible members of the yacht’s crew. One, a man aged 26, is alleged to have served in the Ukrainian army.

Security analysts have expressed doubts that an operation of this size could have been executed successfully by such a small group of people based on a small vessel without a submarine.

Black, single and 57, senator looks for a seat in Oval Office

United States
Hugh Tomlinson North Charleston

Tim Scott launched his campaign to become the first black Republican president yesterday, joining an increasingly crowded field challenging Donald Trump for the party’s nomination.

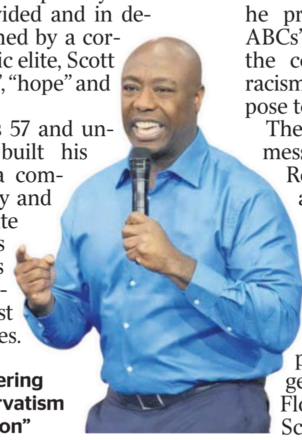
The South Carolina senator vowed to “restore faith in the goodness of America”, a nation “in retreat” under President Biden. “America is strong but our president is weak. Joe Biden and the radical left are attacking every rung of the ladder that helped me climb,” Scott, the only black Republican in the Senate, told a packed hall of supporters at Charleston Southern University.

In front of a banner bearing his campaign slogan “Faith in America”, he presented a hopeful vision for the US, playing upon his own rise from childhood poverty to Capitol Hill. “We live in a land where a kid raised in poverty can one day serve in the people’s house and maybe even the White House,” he said.

His candidacy will test whether a more optimistic vision for America can win over Republican voters still in thrall to the former president. Trump is aiming for the White House for a third time and remains the clear frontrunner for his party’s nomination.

While Trump has portrayed America as a nation divided and in decline, undermined by a corrupt Democratic elite, Scott spoke of “unity”, “hope” and “compassion”.

Scott, who is 57 and unmarried, has built his campaign on a compelling life story and a compassionate message at odds with Trump’s call for “retribution” against political foes.



Tim Scott is offering America conservatism “with compassion”

Brought up by a single mother who worked 16-hour shifts, Scott cast his rise from poverty to become the first black senator from South Carolina as a story made in America. His grandfather dropped out of school before the age of ten to pick cotton but lived long enough to see him elected to Congress. “My family went from cotton to Congress in his lifetime,” Scott said. “Because he believed then what some doubt today — in the greatness of America.”

Although Scott’s message contrasts with Trump’s, the deeply religious senator has staked out hardline conservative turf before yesterday’s announcement. He has said he will sign a federal abortion ban if elected president and called for tougher action to halt the flow of migrants and drugs over America’s southern border, laying blame for the crisis at Biden’s door.

“On my first day as commander-in-chief, the strongest nation on Earth will stop retreating from our southern border,” he said yesterday, promising military action against Mexican drug cartels. “If your back door is not secure, it’s not your house. If our southern border is not secure, it’s not our country.”

Scott attacked Biden’s record on the economy, blaming soaring inflation for reversing years of prosperity. On education, a touchstone for conservatives, he promised “less CRT and more ABCs”, referring to critical race theory, the concept that explores systemic racism. On China, he said he would impose tougher trade sanctions.

There is little evidence that Scott’s message will resonate with a populist Republican base used to Trump’s apocalyptic vision. A Morning Consult poll last week on the Republican race showed the former president with his biggest lead over the rest of the field so far. Some 61 per cent said they would vote for Trump, giving him a 43-point lead over his closest challenger, Ron DeSantis, the governor of Florida, who was on 18 per cent. Scott polled about 1 per cent.

African-Americans warned not to visit ‘hostile’ Florida

Will Pavia New York

One of the oldest and biggest civil rights organisations in the United States has issued a travel advisory for Florida, warning that it is “openly hostile” to black Americans and other minorities.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People gave the advisory in response to laws signed by Ron DeSantis, the state governor, increasing penalties for “public disturbances”, defunding diversity programmes at state universities and banning an advanced course in black history in schools.

“Florida has criminalised protests, restricted the ability of educators to teach African-American history and engaged in a blatant war against diversity and inclusion,” it said, adding that “before travelling to Florida” black Americans should “be aware” of its “open hostility towards African-Americans and people of colour”.

The advisory, which comes after two warnings from the League of United Latin American Citizens and Equality Florida, a gay rights group, is aimed at tourism, which took 137.6 million visitors to the state last year and contributed $101.9 billion to its economy.

“This is a stunt,” DeSantis’s spokesman told the New York Post.

The governor, who is expected to announce a run for the presidency, has used culture war issues to appeal to a broader conservative constituency. “We reject this woke ideology,” he said in a speech this year that has been used in political advertisements. “Florida is where woke goes to die.”

SHUTTERSTOCK



Table talk It could be a scene from a family supper as giant pandas gather for feeding time, a popular public spectacle at Chongqing Zoo in southwestern China

Indians rush to offload 'illegal' cash before September deadline

India

Amrit Dhillon Delhi

It feels like Diwali across India as stores selling gold, diamonds and luxury brands are swamped by shoppers. But the frenzy is not for a festival, it's because millions of Indians are desperate to get rid of their stashes of 2,000 rupee notes, worth about £20 each, before they become illegal tender at the end of September.

The Reserve Bank has announced that it will withdraw its highest-value note from circulation, as it is not widely used. Economists claim the move could boost bank deposits.

Whatever the reason, it has left many people with a dilemma: they are free to deposit the notes at a bank or exchange them for lower-value ones — but that will alert the tax authorities, who will demand to know why any large piles of cash have been stored at home and not declared.

Instead, many are choosing to spend their way around the problem, surging into jewellery stores to offload the notes, instantly pushing up the price of gold and silver in the process. At petrol stations, attendants are complaining that motorists are all using the pink note, decorated with a picture of Mahatma Gandhi, to fill their vehicles, which was seldom the case before last week's official announcement.



Narendra Modi has caused upheaval before with sudden banknote changes

"Earlier, 2,000 rupee notes used to make up 1 to 2 per cent of our daily sales. The rest was credit or debit cards. Now this has jumped to 80 per cent," one exasperated manager told The Hindustan Times newspaper.

For the serious hoarders, using the notes to pay for petrol will not solve the problem: they need to offload caches worth billions of rupees. The issue for them is that the banks will exchange a maximum of ten notes at a time, for a total of 20,000 rupees. Large deposits are bound to attract attention.

That means having to make several visits every day to the bank to deposit or exchange the notes by the deadline of September 30.

One Delhi grocery store owner, Ashish Verma, who has seen cash payments for groceries rise sharply, made a quick calculation. "I'm expecting the big hoarders with wardrobes and metal trunks packed with cash to deploy their servants — the maid, driver, cook or gardener — to make those endless trips to the bank," he said. "Just think: if you have 20 million rupees in cash at home, divide that by 20,000. That means you will need to visit the bank 1,000 times."

The 2,000 rupee note was introduced as recently as 2017, to replace the 500 and 1,000 rupee notes that were withdrawn overnight in a move by Narendra Modi's government. The intention was to push India towards a more formal economy, hammer the booming economy of untaxed cash transactions, and unearth the mountains of cash kept in homes, but the sudden shift caused immense economic upheaval and hardship for many people.

Paradoxically, the 2,000 rupee note quickly fell into disuse by ordinary Indians as it was seen as impractical. But it proved to be a godsend for black-money hoarders because the wads were smaller, easier to count, and required less storage space.

On the day the withdrawal of the 2,000 rupee note was announced a huge stash of 25 million rupees (£242,000) was found in a locked cupboard inside a government office in Rajasthan. No one has stepped forward to claim ownership.

Defence deal opens door for US troops in Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea

Richard Lloyd Parry Asia Editor

The United States has signed a defence agreement with Papua New Guinea in a sign of the growing importance of formerly obscure Pacific nations in the strategic competition between China and the West.

Details have not been published, but the emphasis is on humanitarian assistance and relief after natural disasters. The deal also will smooth the way for American troops to deploy to Papua New Guinea in a military crisis.

The agreement would make it easy for the two countries' forces "to train together in new ways and in more places as part of our joint effort to uphold peace and security across the Indo-Pacific", Antony Blinken, the US secretary of state, said as he signed it along with James Marape, the country's prime minister. "We are deeply invested in the Indo-Pacific because our planet's future is being written here."

A statement by Papua New Guinea's government said it did not have enemies, "but it pays to be prepared … This agreement is not about geopolitics but rather recognises the country's need to build its defence capabilities. The US has offered to do that."

China's military assertiveness is obvious in the waters around it, but it also shows signs of harbouring ambitions in more distant places to challenge America as a Pacific power. Its submarines and ships pass regularly through the straits separating the Japanese islands to roam the western Pacific.

More discreetly, Beijing and its state-owned companies are engaged in a stealthy campaign of influence-building among Pacific governments, offering development loans and practical expertise in building, mining and forestry.

By global standards, Papua New Guinea is a poor, underdeveloped country, but, with a population of ten million people and a vast territory, it is a superpower among Pacific nations. Last year the Solomon Islands, its neighbour, signed a security agreement with China, which caused alarm among western allies such as Australia. The US has responded by opening embassies in the Solomon Islands and Tonga, reviving Peace Corps volunteer efforts and committing money to efforts such as the fight against climate change and HIV.

President Biden had been due to go to Papua New Guinea, but he cancelled his trip because of the negotiations over raising the US debt ceiling.

Wife laced biscuits to kill abusive husband

Australia

Bernard Lagan Sydney

A woman who had murdered her husband with drug-laced biscuits after suffering years of abuse deserved mercy, her lawyer told a sentencing judge yesterday.

Rebecca Payne was physically assaulted and emotionally controlled for much of her 11-year marriage to Noel Payne, including by being forced to have his name tattooed on her 18 times so no one else could "love her".

Payne, 43, was found guilty of murder earlier this year, but Richard Edney, her barrister, told Victoria's supreme court that hers was an "exceptional case".

She drugged her victim, 68, spiking lemon-flavoured biscuits with the drug temazepam. Then she stuffed him into an unplugged freezer and strapped the lid down to prevent his escape. Neighbours noticed the smell of his body a few days later, but pathologists cannot be certain if poisoning or suffocation caused Noel Payne's death.

After marrying 14 years ago, Payne moved to the tiny hamlet of Walpeup, population 170, in the state of Victoria. There, Payne told a jury, her husband had raped her "whenever he felt like it", had controlled her every move and had beaten her. She had lost her part-time job at a shop because his constant presence frightened other customers.

Noel Payne had created a "perverted and disturbing moral universe" in which he treated his wife as a pleasure object, Edney said, describing the husband's actions as "reprehensible" and "obscene". Yesterday Payne wiped away tears as her lawyer detailed the abuse she had suffered while trying to raise two sons.



Noel Payne was killed with drug-laced biscuits made by his wife Rebecca

"You've heard evidence of him repeatedly spitting on Rebecca Payne, watching her in the shower, heard the evidence of her being taken to a graveyard near the family home and bashed," the lawyer said.

When Payne fled to a women's shelter in 2012, her husband moved a younger woman with a learning disability into their home. Payne had felt compelled to return because he had threatened their children, she told the jury. When she did return, her husband refused to break up with his girlfriend. Instead, he is alleged to have subjected both women to "cult-like" exploitation.

By September 2020, Payne could stand the abuse no longer and one afternoon, as a batch of biscuits baked in the oven, she crushed more than seven of her sleeping pills, adding the powder to the icing. Hours later, she handed a laced biscuit to her husband with a hot chocolate malt drink.

After Noel Payne passed out, she wrapped him in a blanket and bundled him in the chest freezer behind their home. Payne claimed at her trial that she had not meant to kill her husband, only to put him to sleep. She has been in custody since then.

The sentencing hearing continues.

Daughter denounces ‘anti-vaccine’ professor

France
Adam Sage Paris

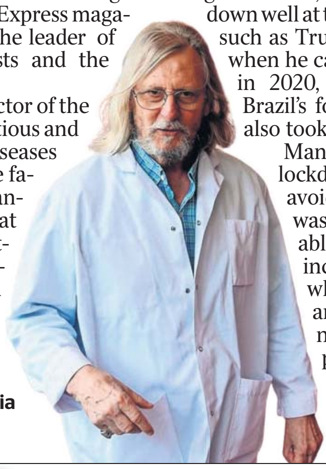
The doctor behind a discredited anti-Covid treatment given to Donald Trump has been described as “a conspiracy theorist leader” by his estranged daughter, who is herself an eminent specialist.

Professor Didier Raoult, 71, a microbiologist long viewed as France’s most prominent physician, was denounced as an isolated and dictatorial figure by Magali Carcopino-Tusoli, his daughter, amid a row that has shed new light on the venomous behaviour of the country’s top medics. The dispute is being played out in the courts and on social media against a backdrop of insults and harassment.

Carcopino-Tusoli, a specialist in angiology at Sainte-Marguerite Hospital in Marseilles, said she had been attacked for taking sides against her father. “He dreamt of winning a Nobel prize,” she told L’Express magazine. “He has become the leader of the conspiracy theorists and the anti-vaxxers.”

Raoult, a former director of the Research Unit on Infectious and Emerging Tropical Diseases in Marseilles, was made famous during the pandemic when he said that the virus could be treated by hydroxychloroquine, an anti-malaria drug.

Although the World Health Organisation has issued advice since then against taking the drug for Covid, Raoult’s claims went down well at the time with populists such as Trump, who was given it when he caught the coronavirus in 2020, and Jair Bolsonaro, Brazil’s former president, who also took it.



Didier Raoult has proposed an anti-malaria drug for treating Covid

Many tried to argue that lockdowns could be avoided if the treatment was made widely available. Raoult’s popularity increased in such circles when he went on to argue that Covid vaccinations could make the pandemic worse.

Carcopino-Tusoli took issue with him publicly, only to receive a barrage of insults on Twitter. “Magali, the ugly little duckling,” said one post on an anonymous account. “In a family of brilliant oak trees, there are always idiots.”

She sued Eric Chabrière, a microbiologist who worked with her father, arguing that he was behind the anonymous account. Chabrière denied this and her claim was dismissed this year.

Now she has gone public in an interview with L’Express. She said: “My position earned me attacks from a pro-hydroxychloroquine Twitter microcosm … which doesn’t understand anything about research and which is convinced that criticism comes from lobbies.

“I have decided not to be quiet, to denounce this harassment. Today we know that this treatment does not work. We were all disappointed, but that is the way it is.”

She also said she had not spoken to her father for ten years because she dared to argue with him. “He has never tolerated being contradicted. You cannot survive with him if you don’t agree with everything he says. This behaviour has led him to isolate himself and shut himself inside a sphere of adoration. He can only put up with people who bow down before him.”

She criticised Aix-Marseilles University, which has joint responsibility for the Research Unit on Infectious and Emerging Tropical Diseases, along with the city’s hospitals. She said the university should have brought her father to heel before he was forced to resign last autumn, adding that “this situation results in a disastrous image” for the university.





GUILLAUME SOUVANT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; ALAMY

Château de la Mothe Chandeniers was “saved” by Dartagnans and similar schemes have been launched to save other castles and monuments

Castles in the air as heritage plan falters

The plan was to save France’s crumbling heritage by reaching out across the world for money (Adam Sage writes).

Tens of thousands of people, some from the UK, contributed to crowdfunding projects that involved the purchase and restoration of historic châteaux and the renovation of dozens of other monuments.

But Dartagnans, the platform behind the pioneering scheme, is now under fire after its endowment fund was suspended by officials over accusations of a lack of transparency.

There are fears that many of France’s 45,000 or so historic monuments have fallen into disrepair for want of government funding.

President Macron set up a national heritage lottery to raise money, but observers argue that private initiatives are also necessary.

The Paris-based Dartagnans had been among the most eye-catching of these, attracting global interest. Set up a decade ago, the platform claims to have saved the 19th-century Château de la Mothe Chandeniers in the Loire Valley, for instance. A total of 27,910 people from 115 countries contributed almost €4 million to stop the decay of the monument, which had been abandoned since a fire in 1932. Renovations have been made, heritage lovers have worked there voluntarily, and the site has been opened to the public.

Similar schemes have been set up in other locations in France.

Dartagnans says that contributors are joint owners of the châteaux. In practice, they have an 80 per cent stake in the companies that own the monuments, and Dartagnans holds the rest. The Le Figaro newspaper said that the business model was opaque, with accounts unpublished and shareholders kept in the dark, and that Dartagnans kept 8 per cent of donations to cover its running costs.

Last month, the Paris Prefecture, which is part of the interior ministry, suspended the endowment fund set up to oversee and finance building work at the châteaux. Officials said the fund had failed to publish its accounts.

Romain Delaume, the joint founder of Dartagnans, said it was “totally false” to suggest that the operation lacked transparency.



He said: “It’s true that paperwork is not our thing. What we are passionate about is saving châteaux. At no time have we been opaque. The heart of what we do is to federate a community, so if we cheated and tricked people everything would end.”

Migrants find musical solace in Madrid

Spain
David Sharrock Madrid

They are buskers, waiters and food delivery bikers but every Sunday they are members of Spain’s most unusual orchestra — founded by Venezuelans fleeing their country’s economic woes.

Manuel Jurado, conductor of the Cruz Diez Orchestra, confesses he was called “crazy” when, fighting depression from having been uprooted from his comfortable life in Caracas as a musician, he decided to form the ensemble.

“How could I do this, people told me, when I hardly even had enough money to pay for a room to sleep in. But I persisted, I went looking in the streets and today, four years later, we are 75 musicians with 30 concerts to our name.”

Seven million Venezuelans have fled their country since 2015 and more than 130,000 have now settled in Madrid.

Jorge Alcarra retired after 35 years playing oboe in Venezuela’s national symphony orchestra, but when his pension vanished he arrived in Madrid with €500. After decades playing in important theatres around the world, playing in the street was intimidating. “Even if you’ve played in venues with four thousand people, the street is something else,” he said.

One day he was playing in the Callao shopping district when a fellow Venezuelan musician asked him to audition for the Cruz Diez Orchestra.

Mónica Hernández Parra, a bassoonist, also struggled with the unexpected precipitous fall from her former role in the Maracaibo Symphony Orchestra to the streets of Madrid. “I would get out of the Metro, take a deep breath and say: ‘I’m in Europe. I’m not in a theatre, but more than 23,000 people pass through this street every day and I’m going to imagine it’s the biggest theatre in Spain’.”

Now she too plays with the Cruz Diez Orchestra. Many of its members came through *el Sistema* (the System), Venezuela’s world-renowned music education programme founded in 1975 by José Antonio Abreu.

Jurado was 12 when he met Abreu and thanks his maestro for turning him into a conductor, and for the discipline and moral values he learnt in the System. His orchestra gathers to practise in a church hall every week “and our problems disappear — if only for four hours”.

Beads in archaeological dig hint at Bronze Age trading

Germany
Oliver Moody Berlin

On the eve of the First World War, German archaeologists digging a tunnel into the base of a royal Assyrian ziggurat came across thousands of ornamental beads that had been laid beneath its foundations as an offering.

The haul was crated up and packed off to a museum in Berlin. Now scientific analysis of two of those beads has revealed they were made of amber gathered nearly 2,000 miles away on the Baltic coast, hinting at vast trade networks spanning much of Europe and the Middle East at the dawn of the Bronze Age. The researchers suggest the amber may have been brought to Assur, the Assyrian capital, by nobles from a central European culture.

Most of the 5,700 beads were made from relatively low-value materials, but two stood out: brownish in colour, respectively 1.7cm and 3.2cm in diameter and with holes drilled through them for a necklace. Chemical analysis found they were amber with the distinctive “Baltic shoulder” signature. It is thought the central European amber trade then was largely controlled by the Unetice culture, a proto-civilisation in Germany, Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

Man who beat paralysis conquers Everest and dies

Nepal

Bernard Lagan Sydney

An Australian who spent years learning to walk again after a road crash has died on Mount Everest while on a climbing expedition to raise funds for spinal injury victims.

Jason Kennison, 40, "achieved his goal of reaching the peak . . . he stood on top of this world, but sadly didn't come home," his family said in a social media post.

The heavy-vehicle mechanic was left paralysed after a 2006 accident. He fought depression for a year before he began to regain some function in his arms and legs and eventually learnt to walk again. He died on Friday evening after encountering difficulties above the 8,000m-mark on Everest, known among climbers as the "death zone".

Dawa Steven Sherpa, head of the company that organised the expedition, said he had become "unresponsive" at the summit and had to be carried down to the Balcony area below the peak. Fellow climbers descended further, hoping to return with fresh oxygen cylinders but were delayed by high winds and bad weather.

Video of Kennison's ascent hours earlier showed him trudging through thick snow with other climbers.

Years after his car accident he suffered a broken collar bone in a motorbike crash while training for a race. "Each injury seemed to chip a little bit away at my confidence," he said in a television interview.

On average five climbers die every year on Everest. In 2019 the number jumped to 11, with four of the deaths being linked to overcrowding on the mountain. Kennison's death is the sixth among foreign climbers so far this season, and four Sherpas have died.



Jason Kennison was taken ill at the summit



CARLOS GARCIA GRANTHON/ZUMA PRESS/SHUTTERSTOCK

Back in step **Dancers in Andean costume on the streets of Lima, Peru, where Sunday parades have returned after the pandemic**

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As Cannes rolls out red carpet, where are the new film stars?

United States

Keiran Southern Los Angeles

The Cannes film festival had a familiar look last week, with Harrison Ford, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone all appearing in high-profile films featured on the French coast.

However, the line-up of veteran actors has led to fears that the Hollywood talent pipeline has dried up, with a dearth of new stars to take their places at the top of the box office.

Ford, 80, is reprising perhaps his most famous role in *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*; Stallone, 76, is appearing in a new *Cliffhanger* movie; Schwarzenegger, 75, is starring in an action-thriller called *Breakout*; and John Travolta, 69, will feature in *That's Amore!*, a romcom.

Even the relatively younger stars who had projects at Cannes — Nicolas Cage, 59, and Matthew McConaughey, 53 — have had decades-long careers.

Some insiders have blamed the shift to streaming for the star assembly line breaking down. A sales agent told Variety that films produced for the likes of Netflix and Amazon Prime Video did not require the global marketing campaigns of old.

"We used to treat our movie stars like gods," the agent said, "but the marketing of these streaming movies is so limited that it doesn't really create stars. Actors aren't burnt into the minds like they once were and they don't have this larger-than-life image any longer."

Some commentators point to the rise of superhero films for the fall of the movie star. Since Marvel released *Iron Man* in 2008, studios have been able to rely on franchises to entice filmgoers into the cinema, rather than depending on the draw of one actor.



Sylvester Stallone, left, and Harrison Ford have new films

Many of today's top young stars — including Tom Holland, 26, Sydney Sweeney, 25, and Michael B Jordan, 36, have already appeared in superhero films, or are about to.

Anthony Mackie, 44, a star of Marvel's *Avengers* series, has said previously that "there are no movie stars any more.

"It used to be, with Tom Cruise and Will Smith and Stallone and Schwarzenegger, when you went to the movies, you went to go see the Stallone movie, you went to go see the Schwarzenegger movie. Now you go see *X-Men*. So the evolution of the superhero has meant the death of the movie star."

George Hamilton, chief commercial officer of Protagonist Pictures, a British-based production company, believes Hollywood's failure to produce new stars can be traced to the demise of DVDs in about2008.

"Nearly all of the actors and actresses who are [bankable] now had very successful films when DVD and video was still a huge force," Hamilton told Variety. "You could see that as a dividing line shift in terms of older or newer generation.

"With the new generation, there's more divisions between success because you could have the most-watched show or film on a streamer, but there might be a whole swath of society who might not subscribe and they're not part of that."

'Hero' farmers flood fields to save town

Italy

Tom Kington Rome

A group of Italian farmers have been hailed as heroes after diverting floodwaters into their fields to save the town of Ravenna, home to priceless Byzantine mosaics.

As floods devastated the Emilia-Romagna region last week, the 70 farmers agreed to bulldoze the embankment of a fast-rising canal outside Ravenna, submerging 500 acres they farm, wiping out crops but successfully keeping the water from surging into the town.

"We had no doubt. People's lives and their possessions are more important than land," Fabrizio Galavotti, head of the Cab Terra consortium of farmers, said.

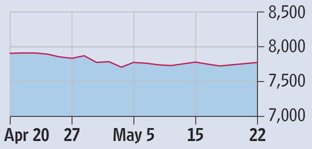
Parts of Emilia-Romagna received half their normal annual rainfall in only 36 hours last week. Fourteen people were killed in the floods that followed and 36,000 were forced from their homes. There were fears that Ravenna, a former capital of the Western Roman Empire, home to an Ostrogothic kingdom and once a Byzantine city, also would fall victim.

"The prefect of the city rang to say the water was rising dramatically in a canal, which risked flooding the city. He asked if we would break the embankment," Galavotti said. "We have been called heroes, but the rescuers working for four days to pump water out of homes are the real heroes."

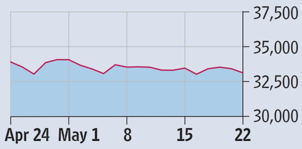
Business

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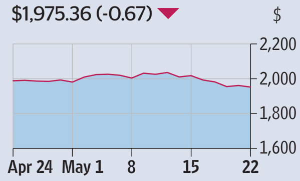


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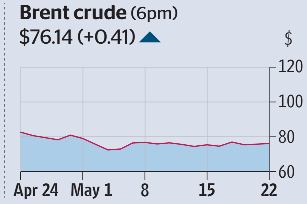


COMMODITIES

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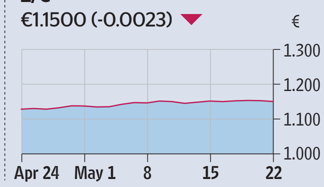


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Meta fined €1.2bn over EU privacy rule breach

Record penalty for flouting data protection laws

Katie Prescott
Technology Business Editor

Meta, the owner of Facebook, has been fined a record €1.2 billion for breaching European Union data privacy rules, and given a six-month deadline to stop transferring data to the United States.

The Irish Data Protection Commission said Meta had violated the EU's rules when it moved the personal data of European Facebook users to the US, where it is hosted, without protecting them sufficiently from Washington's data surveillance practices.

The fine is the biggest issued for a breach of EU general data protection regulation rules, beating the €746 million levied on Amazon in 2021.

The commission said the European Data Protection Board had ordered it to collect the fine. Andrea Jelinek, chairwoman of the board, said it "concerns transfers that are systematic, repetitive and continuous". She added: "Facebook has millions of users in Europe, so the volume of personal data transferred is massive. The unprecedented fine is a strong signal to organisations that serious infringements have far-reaching consequences."

Like many US technology companies, Meta has its European headquarters in Dublin, which makes the Irish authority a key privacy regulator.

Sir Nick Clegg, president of global affairs at Meta, and Jennifer Newstead, chief legal officer, said they would appeal the ruling. "This decision is flawed, unjustified and sets a dangerous precedent for the countless other companies transferring data between the EU and US," they said. "No country has done more than the US to align with European rules via their latest reforms, while transfers continue largely unchallenged to countries such as China."

The fine is a setback to the social media company, which has been struggling with slowing advertising revenue, growing competition from TikTok and a multibillion-dollar speculation on creating a metaverse. It has announced two big rounds of job cuts this year. Mark Zuckerberg, its founder and chief executive, has called 2023 a "year of efficiency".

The ruling relates to a decades-old question about how companies in the EU can transfer data to America and be compliant with European law.

Max Schrems, an Austrian privacy campaigner, was behind a case in 2020 when the EU Court of Justice found that the existing "privacy shield" was not sufficient to protect citizens from surveillance by the US. This meant most companies' frameworks were insufficient and while a new framework was developed they relied on so-called "standard contractual clauses". This ruling means that those too have been deemed to be below par.

One lawyer described the situation as a "doom loop", because the standard seemingly cannot be met by anyone. In March, Brussels and Washington announced they had agreed "in principle" to a replacement for the privacy shield but it is not ready yet.

The Meta executives said: "We are pleased that the [Irish commission] also confirmed in its decision that there will be no suspension of the transfers or other action required of Meta, such as a requirement to delete EU data subjects' data once the underlying conflict of law has been resolved."

Edward Machin, a lawyer in Ropes & Gray's data, privacy and cybersecurity practice, said: "This is a seismic decision for how the internet operates and one which is not Meta specific. Every app you use that has data backed up in America will be affected by this ruling." He added: "This is a rare case of the first billion euro fine under [data protection rules] being the least important part of the story. "

John Magee, head of data protection at DLA Piper Ireland, said it had "raised the stakes, focusing attention on the controls that organisations need to have in place as well as forcing businesses to think about their overall data governance strategies".

JEFF SPICER/GETTY IMAGES



Chelsea girls Deborah Meaden, right, the Dragons' Den investor, and the DJ Jo Whiley show their colours at the flower show

City boss guilty of £70m Ponzi fraud

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

A City boss once likened to the "Wolf of Wall Street" has been convicted of a £70 million fraud that promised investors a "remarkable" 60 per cent annual return.

A jury found Anthony Constantinou guilty in his absence yesterday after he absconded during the trial.

Constantinou, 41, had promoted a "Ponzi-style" investment scheme known as a managed account. It was provided mainly by a company referred to as Capital World Markets (CWM).

Prosecutors said that between 2013 and 2015 CWM offered investors returns of 5 per cent each calendar month, equating to a 60 per cent annual return, on purportedly risk-free transactions on the foreign exchange markets.

Nine years ago, one woman who worked with Constantinou described him to The Times as a playboy, who was "exactly" like the Leonardo DiCaprio character in Martin Scorsese's 2013 film. Constantinou was said routinely to have thrown wads of cash at staff, poured champagne over their heads and bullied young staff into glugging bottles of vodka.

He built up a reputation for respectability with sponsorship deals for Chelsea FC and boxing tournaments, and in 2015 was photographed meeting Princess Anne at the London boat show, which CWM was sponsoring.

The jury at Southwark crown court in London was told that the fraudster had lured victims to invest usually a minimum of £50,000 in his bogus scheme. Prosecutors said that hundreds of the investments were made.

CWM said it could offer high rewards because of idiosyncrasies in foreign exchange trading but prosecutors told the jury that those claims were false.

Instead of investing the cash in the foreign exchange markets, Constantinou spent some of it on elaborate marketing campaigns to keep the investments flowing, while also buying high-performance cars and a motorbike.

After he was convicted, the prosecutors said that "millions of pounds were paid for the benefit of Constantinou who controlled the funds".

Officers at City of London police began investigating Constantinou and his company in 2014. In 2015 officers searched the company's offices in Heron Tower, a skyscraper in the City, and arrested Constantinou.

Detectives said that the fraudster had spent £3 million on "lifestyle events, including his wedding and a CWM launch party". During his police interview, Constantinou used a prepared statement denying knowledge of fraud and replied "no comment" to all further questions by officers. He did not attend the later stages of his trial and an international arrest warrant has been issued for him. Constantinou is scheduled to be sentenced on June 9.

Business

Need to know

1 The House Builders' Federation said that actions taken by Natural England and recent changes to planning policy threaten to reduce the number of new homes from 240,000 per year in 2018-19, to 111,000 by 2025, the lowest level since the 1920s. Page 1

2 Voters overwhelmingly support tougher curbs on junk food to tackle obesity. Eighty per cent back the idea of laws to prevent the advertising of unhealthy food to children on television and online, according to a YouGov poll for the Obesity Health Alliance. Page 4

3 Meta, the owner of Facebook, has been fined €1.2 billion for breaching European Union data privacy rules, and given a six-month deadline to stop transferring data to the US. The Irish Data Protection Commission said Meta violated the EU's rules when it moved the personal data of European Facebook users without protecting them sufficiently from Washington's data surveillance practices. Page 31

4 A City boss once likened to the "Wolf of Wall Street" has been convicted of a £70 million fraud that promised a "remarkable" 60 per cent annual return. A jury found Anthony Constantinou guilty in his absence after he absconded during the trial. Page 31

5 The merger of Allen & Overy, the London magic circle practice, with Shearman & Sterling, one of Wall Street's oldest and most established law firms, is set to create an entity with annual revenue of at least $3.4 billion.

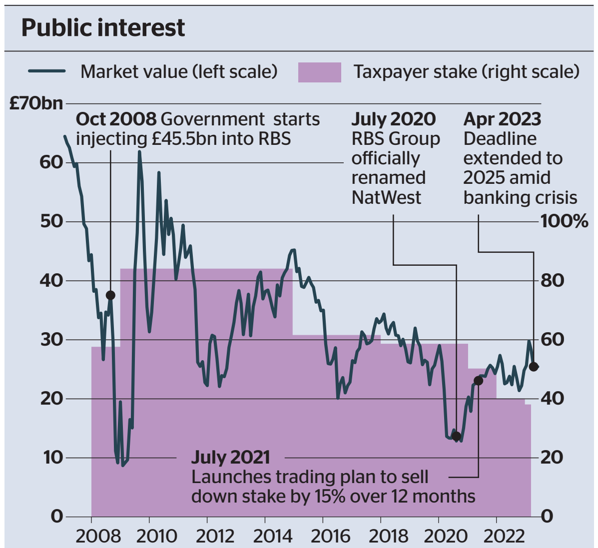
6 The Treasury has taken another step towards returning NatWest Group to private ownership after its 2008 bailout by selling a stake worth £1.26 billion. The sale has cut taxpayers' shareholding to 38.7 per cent from about 41 per cent. Ministers have a target of selling all the state's stake by 2026.

7 Ryanair has returned to profit for the first time since before the pandemic on the back of rising passenger numbers and fares. The budget airline reported an underlying net profit of €1.43 billion in the year to the end of March, compared with a loss of €355 million a year earlier. Page 34

8 The government and Bank of England, as well as other central banks and governments around the world, co-ordinated efforts to get Libor and Euribor down during the financial crisis of 2008, it has been claimed. Page 36

9 The finance chief at Wise has announced plans to step down, days after a colleague was chosen to stand in for the chief executive and founder when he takes a three-month sabbatical. Matthew Briers said he was leaving the money-transfer group to focus on making a full recovery from a cycling accident. Page 37

10 Dechra Pharmaceuticals said annual earnings will be less than expected. It is negotiating a £4.6 billion takeover deal with a Swedish private equity firm. Page 39



Government cuts its stake in NatWest with £1.26bn share sale

The government has taken another step towards fully returning NatWest Group to private ownership following its 2008 bailout by offloading a stake in the high street bank worth £1.26 billion (Ben Martin and Martin Strydom write). The sale by the Treasury has cut the taxpayers' shareholding in the lender to 38.7 per cent from about 41 per cent. Ministers have set a target of selling all of the state's stake by 2026.

Taxpayers became the biggest shareholder in NatWest when the government rescued it from



American merger places Allen & Overy at top table

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

Allen & Overy's merger with one of Wall Street's oldest and most established law firms is set to catapult the London-based magic circle practice into the top tier of international players.

The planned deal with Shearman & Sterling — which was founded in 1873 — creates an entity with annual revenue of at least $3.4 billion (£2.7 billion). That would place what is set to become Allen Overy Shearman Sterling in the top five in the international earnings league table of law firms — potentially wedged between DLA Piper, another transatlantic firm, and Baker McKenzie, a US practice, albeit one that has its largest office in London.

Law firm partners in the City will be cheered that the English firm — which was co-founded in 1930 by George Allen, the lawyer who advised Edward VIII during the abdication crisis — has the whip hand in this deal.

Yet it is a bullish statement from Allen & Overy, given that the history of transatlantic mergers among the City's elite group of five has been distinctly patchy.

Expert reaction in the wake of the joint announcement on Sunday evening in London was positive, with one long-standing commentator describing A&O's move on Shearman as "opportunistic and strategic".

The surprise unveiling was all the more impressive as A&O was thought to be still bruised from its previous engagement to an American. In 2019 the firm embarrassingly called off a deal with O'Melveny & Myers, a Los Angeles practice, after an 18-month courtship that was understood to have cost the pair millions in pre-merger professional advice.


Wim Dejonghe of A&O hailed the "exciting" merger with Shearman & Sterling

At the time, commentators assumed that A&O's medium-term plans in the notoriously competitive US market were sunk. But even then the partners remained confident, saying that "building our presence in the US remains the highest priority".

Likewise, and more recently, Shearman was reported to have been in negotiations last year with Hogan Lovells, yet another transatlantic practice, but those talks foundered.

Despite their previous merger woes, both firms were determined to find a partner, and that commitment and tenacity seems to have paid dividends.

The merged firm is set to be home to about 3,900 lawyers in 49 international offices. Wim Dejonghe, A&O's 62-year-old Belgian senior partner, made all the standard noises as the deal was unveiled. The two practices had "listened to our clients", he said, adding that "what excites me about this merger is the complementary cultures of our two firms".

Clichés aside, independent commentators were also optimistic about the merger. Tony Williams, the founder of Jomati, a legal profession consultancy, noted that A&O had been "clear as to its wish to grow in the US but has found it extremely difficult to find a US firm willing to dance".

Williams added that "having faced over a decade of sustained attack by US firms in key markets such as London, it is clear that the UK firms need a stronger and deeper US practice and it is encouraging to see A&O being so proactive". He cautioned that while no merger deal was "risk free", the proposed deal "looks like the best opportunity the firm has to quickly build a serious US footprint and then to use that to build out further in the US".

But those merger risks should not be dismissed, as the record of London's magic circle firms in the US is traumatic. Some 23 years ago, Clifford Chance struck a deal with Rogers & Wells, then seen as a second division New York commercial practice, in a merger that was meant to launch the English practice into the heart of legal Wall Street.

However, that deal was blighted by a series of difficulties: many of the US partners baled out of the merged practice over claims that the London and New York cultures did not fit and the management was forced to close offices on the West Coast.

Those wounds at Clifford Chance took a long time to heal. Even in 2016 — some 16 years after the ink had dried on that deal — one City partner still said: "It may have looked big and brave at the time, but it was a disaster."

Of the current deal, however, Williams said the A&O partners were "to be congratulated on such an opportunistic and strategic move".

Jon Cartwright, a partner at Hazlewoods, an accountancy firm that specialises in advising the legal profession, said t A&O "has put itself in a better position to succeed than the previous firms that have tried to break America, by finding a partner that is already a significant force in the US market".



HOLLIE ADAMS/BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES

Dame Alison Rose, who took over as chief executive in 2019, changed the group's name to distance itself from its troubled past

the brink of collapse during the financial crisis. That £45.5 billion bailout gave the state an 84 per cent shareholding in the bank, which at the time was called Royal Bank of Scotland Group.

The government started to sell its stake in 2015 and yesterday's deal marks its sixth block sale of NatWest stock.

It was conducted by way of a directed buyback, with the lender repurchasing about 469.2 million shares from the Treasury at a price of 268½p each. It follows a similar £1.2 billion buyback by NatWest in March last year, in which the state ceded control of the bank.

As with every other sale of NatWest stock undertaken by the government, the latest transaction is below the 502p price at which the state rescued the lender and has therefore resulted in a loss for taxpayers.

Nevertheless, Andrew Griffith, the City minister, described the disposal as "another major milestone in returning NatWest to full private ownership as promised.

The government had now sold well over half of its shareholding," he said.

Offloading the rest of the stake would be a big boost for NatWest, which is one of Britain's biggest banks but has struggled to cast off the legacy of its bailout.

It suffered a decade of losses before finally returning to annual profit in 2017. Last year it generated full-year pre-tax profits of £5.1 billion, its best result since its rescue, after it was buoyed by higher interest rates.

Dame Alison Rose, its chief executive since 2019, changed the group's name to try to distance it from its troubled past. She said the latest share sale "demonstrates positive progress on the bank's strategic priorities and the path to privatisation".

Shares in NatWest Group closed up 3¼p, or 1.2 per cent, at 271½p.

As well as selling big blocks of NatWest shares, either to other investors or to the bank itself through directed buybacks, the government has been trimming its holding in the lender through a trading plan, which regularly dribbles small amounts of shares into the market. The scheme began in July 2021 and by early April it had sold NatWest stock worth £3.7 billion.

HSBC sued for 'poaching' bank staff

Callum Jones
US Business Correspondent

First Citizens, which acquired Silicon Valley Bank after its collapse, has sued HSBC over claims that the FTSE 100 lender illegally poached dozens of the collapsed American firm's employees.

HSBC, which acquired the British arm of SVB following its abrupt failure in March, stands accused of "brazenly" seeking to "plunder" trade secrets. HSBC declined to comment.

A complaint filed in San Francisco federal court claimed that HSBC and a group of former SVB employees orchestrated a scheme to steal its business.

The British bank bought SVB UK for £1 in March, days after the implosion of its American owner, a regional lender based in California. Weeks later, First Citizens, based in North Carolina, acquired most of the remaining business.

Now First Citizens is accusing HSBC of having engineered an attempt to "plunder what they believed to be the 'core of [SVB's] profitability engine'," alleging that senior figures at the bank "brazenly took and misused SVB's confidential, proprietary and trade secret information to execute their scheme".

"Just two weeks after First Citizens acquired SVB, defendants executed the first 'wave' of their scheme, raiding 42 First Citizens employees around 9pm

42
former Silicon Valley Bank employees were allegedly lured to HSBC
Source: First Citizens court filing

on Easter Sunday," according to the lawsuit. These employees resigned "en masse" over the next half an hour, with immediate effect, it claims, having been promised "great fortune" if they jumped ship.

In April, HSBC announced it had hired a batch of former SVB bankers — billed as "Silicon Valley veterans" — who it said would build a dedicated banking practice "focused on the innovation economy". This team of "more than 40 bankers" were based in San Francisco's Bay Area, Boston and New York, it said at the time, and would be led by David Sabow, who had spent a decade at SVB.

Under what First Citizens alleges Sabow called "Project Colony", it claims that executives at HSBC "agreed to help orchestrate and to fund" the hiring of SVB employees "because Sabow told HSBC that it stood to profit well over $1 billion from this plan within the next five years".

First Citizens claims that Sabow — one of seven people named separately as defendants in its complaint — based his financial projections on "SVB's confidential, proprietary and trade secret information. And this went well beyond his own knowledge, which he was contractually and by common law bound to keep confidential."

A spokesman for HSBC declined to comment on Sabow's behalf last night.

Zoom raises revenue and profit forecast

Callum Jones
Isabella Fish Retail Editor

Zoom has boosted its annual revenue and profit forecasts amid robust demand from companies considering their post-pandemic operations.

Companies still believed the videoconferencing platform was "mission critical", said Eric Yuan, its founder and chief executive, despite more of them ordering staff back to the office.

Yuan welcomed a "solid start to the year". Zoom's base of key enterprise customers — each contributing more than $100,000 in recurring annual revenue — rose 23 per cent to 3,580.

Shares in Zoom Video Communications increased 2.1 per cent, or $1.47, to $72.88 during out-of-hours trading in New York last night.

Revenue increased 3 per cent to $1.11 billion in the three months to April 30. Net profits dropped sharply, from $113.6 million to $15.4 million.

The group expects to generate annual sales of between $4.47 billion and $4.49 billion, up from between $4.44 billion and $4.46 billion. It also lifted its adjusted earnings guidance.

Zoom, based in San Jose, California, rose to prominence in the early months of the pandemic when daily users of its service surged and most staff had to work from home. Its share price has since fallen back sharply.

Yesterday Britain's biggest seller of Rolex, Omega and Breitling watches became the latest company to call time on working from home and ordered staff back to the office four days a week.

Brian Duffy, chief executive of Watches of Switzerland, has made it mandatory for the firm's 500 employees to work from Monday to Thursday at its new Leicester office. "We've provided really nice new offices and we're insisting on a four-day week," he said. "It might even go back to a five-day working week as I have no doubt at all that [workers are] more efficient when they're working together and talking."

John Roberts, boss of the electricals retailer AO World, said last week that he had banned hybrid working — coming into the office intermittently — for its 3,000 employees since January.

Euro regulators wait to board Ryanair



BUSINESS COMMENTARY *Robert Lea*

We have a strange relationship with super-disruptors such as Amazon or Uber. They have undoubtedly changed our lives for the better but somehow we still don't quite trust them.

Ryanair has utterly transformed European aviation in the past quarter century but no one has friends or acquaintances who don't badmouth it. The carrier, Europe's largest, is a kaleidoscope of contradictions, the low-fare airline whose accounts now reveal how it is merrily emptying our pockets.

In the past year Ryanair's revenue per passenger, a proxy for the fare but also including all those unseen charges and fees, has gone up a staggering 30 per cent (report, page 34). That is a comparison with the heavily discounted fares to keep people flying during the pandemic. But even so, compared with pre-Covid levels, Ryanair has ramped up prices by 19 per cent.

And fares are only going one way, says its chief executive, Michael O'Leary, as strong demand continues to outpace industry supply, measured in seat capacity across Europe, which is still down on pre-pandemic levels.

Here is an airline that has singlehandedly democratised air travel across the Continent but is now so dominant in some markets that it accounts for about a third of all passengers: 40 per cent in Italy, 36 per cent in Poland and 31 per cent in Hungary, all large or fast-growing markets. In its native Ireland it has secured three in every five passengers.

All this has delivered Ryanair near-record profits, of €1.43 billion for 2022-23, not far short of its all-time high in 2015-16. The cash it is harvesting will be spent on 300 larger short-haul planes over the next decade. That is projected to give it 300 million passengers a year by 2034 or pretty much 33 per cent of the total European market.

Competition regulators at the European Commission will surely soon start noticing, especially if fares and profit margins in areas of Ryanair market dominance start looking disproportionately higher than before. O'Leary says he can't see competition intervention happening: why would Eurocrats attack the Continent's lowest fare provider? That may have some logic but Brussels thinks differently. Ryanair's increasing power — to the detriment of a host of state-backed airlines — will leave Brussels itching to rein it in.

Not Tesco's finest

Now that Dame Carolyn Fairbairn, a former director-general of the CBI, has broken her silence on the words and deeds of John Allan when he was president of the same body — "clumsy and insensitive" was one of her descriptions — it is only right to wonder about her next job.

That is as a non-executive director from September of Tesco, the supermarket chain that has announced it is parting company with its chairman, the same John Allan, over the CBI furore.

In these days of heightened corporate governance it can be discounted that Fairbairn was offered the Tesco gig — a part-time role paying £100,000 a year, more than three times average full-time pay at the company — on the strength of her professional relationship with Allan.

But given the sensitivities about the unfolding CBI drama and the connection between Allan and Fairbairn, we can wonder what the chairman of Tesco's committee on boardroom nominations was thinking in handing Fairbairn the role. It transpires that the Tesco nominations committee is chaired by, er, one John Allan.

As boardroom fandangos go, Tesco looks like it has got itself a buy-one-get-one-free.

Innovative accounts

Amid all the fine words from our political and boardroom leaders about innovation and high-wage economies, some timely research from the ACCA accountancy body and Glasgow University's Adam Smith Business School. A report from them on the corporate reporting and financial disclosure of research and development (R&D) expenditure has found a "disconnect" between what companies say at the front and back ends of their accounts.

That is, some companies will be effusive in their narrative about commitment to R&D and then report next to nothing in the accounts on spending. Conversely others will say little about the subject and then up pops a large R&D number in the financials.

If we cannot even measure the amount of innovation going on then how on earth do we know whether we are making a success of it?

Which way is East?

When Warren East said he was stepping down as chief executive of Rolls-Royce last year, the company's chairwoman, Anita Frew, said lots of nice things about him: an exceptional leader, pioneering strategic vision, incredible tenacity through unprecedented times, bringer of cultural change, etc… you get the drift. She concluded that East had "substantially delivered on our recent commitments to investors and [we] are now firmly set on the path to a more prosperous and sustainable future".

East's successor, Tufan Erginbilgic, came in, described the company as a "burning platform" and set about dismantling much of the senior leadership. At the weekend he doubled down on the trash talk stating that parts of Rolls had been "grossly mismanaged".

Long-suffering shareholders may wish to know at some stage whether Frew believes Erginbilgic's version of history or her own.

robert.lea@thetimes.co.uk
Alistair Osborne is away

Rebound in travel lifts Ryanair profits

Emily Gosden

Ryanair has returned to profit for the first time since before the pandemic on the back of rising passenger numbers and fares.

The budget airline behemoth reported an underlying net profit of €1.43 billion in the year to the end of March, compared with a loss of €355 million a year earlier.

Revenues more than doubled to €10.78 billion as customer numbers rebounded to a record 168.6 million, up from 97.1 million a year earlier, while average fares were 50 per cent higher at €41.

Europe's biggest airline group said it was "cautiously optimistic" about delivering a further, modest, increase in profits this financial year. It said a projected 10 per cent rise in passenger numbers should more than offset a €1 billion increase in fuel costs. However, delays in deliveries of Boeing aircraft could dampen growth.

Michael O'Leary, chief executive, said Ryanair expected to expand its market share because airline capacity in Europe remained constrained below pre-Covid levels but demand was "significantly stronger".

"People who have been locked up for two and a half years are going back travelling," he said. Despite fears about rising energy costs, inflation and interest rates, people were spending money on travel that was "no longer a luxury. It appears to be kind of a necessity."

O'Leary also predicted that the strength of the dollar would result in "an invasion of Americans across Europe all summer long".

Ryanair is the world's biggest international airline and operates 537 aircraft under the Ryanair, Buzz, Lauda and Malta Air brands. It flies to more than 240 destinations in more than 40 countries.

The group has recovered more strongly from the pandemic than many of its rivals after cutting fewer staff.

In the past year Ryanair benefited from its hedging strategy, which insulated it from soaring oil prices, having locked in more than 80 per cent of its fuel needs at about $64 per barrel; this year, however, it has hedged 85 per cent of its fuel needs at $89 per barrel.

O'Leary said the group retained an "enormous cost advantage" over its rivals, in part due to lower aircraft ownership costs while many of its rivals were leasing their aircraft and exposed to higher financing costs.

Ryanair has ordered 300 Boeing Max-10 aircraft that it hopes will enable it to increase customers to 300 million a year by 2034. It said this would entrench its cost advantage with more seats per jet and greater fuel efficiency.

O'Leary, 62, has led Ryanair since 1994 and late last year extended his contract until 2028. He claimed that it was "frankly immaterial" whether the board wanted him to extend his contract even longer. "This business is no longer heavily dependent on me. With the early days I used to make all the decisions in Ryanair and increasingly I make very few of the decisions in Ryanair because it's such a big operation," he told analysts.

O'Leary became group chief executive in 2019 and said that the company had "done a lot of really good work during Covid and post Covid on succession planning", with management roles in each airline in the group serving as a "training ground".

JOE PEPLER/PINPEP/VIRGIN ATLANTIC



Come fly with me Virgin Atlantic is to recruit 350 new cabin crew. The airline, which is headquartered in London, employs more than 7,500 people, flying to 31 destinations

888 offloads its non-core Latvian business for £25m

Jessica Newman

The gambling company that acquired William Hill last year in a £2 billion deal has agreed to sell its Latvian business for £25 million as it looks to prioritise its core and growth markets.

Paf Consulting Abp, a manufacturer and distributor of gaming consoles, based on the Aland Islands in Finland, will buy the division from 888 Holdings via an upfront payment of £20.9 million. Up to £3.7 million will be paid in instalments next year when its financial statements for 2023 have been completed.

Lord Mendelsohn, executive chairman of 888, said: "As a business, our relatively limited exposure in the Baltic region means that the region is not one of our core or growth markets where we prioritise our investments."

The Latvia business operates with a local licence, using the William Hill and Mr Green brands. 888 said it would provide a brand licence to continue the usage of these brands within Latvia for a limited time. The Latvia business generated net revenue of £9.1 million in 2022 and operating profits of £2.5 million.

Because the business operates largely as an independent entity with its own management team and technology platform, 888 said the transaction was expected to have "no impact on the ongoing operations and synergy programme of the group".

The 888 business, which was floated in London in 2005, was founded in 1997 by two Israeli families, the Shakeds and the Ben-Yitzhaks. The Shakeds, with a near-20 per cent stake, are the biggest shareholders. The group offers online casino games, poker, bingo and sports betting. Shares of 888 closed unchanged at 77p.

Delivery frustrations cost firms billions in lost sales

Isabella Fish

Retailers are "losing" up to £31.5 billion in online sales each year because of delivery-related "frustrations" when customers come to pay, research shows.

A report to be published this week has found that 24.8 per cent of attempted online purchases are abandoned by shoppers because of poor delivery choices, high delivery fees and slow delivery speeds.

The report, Battling Basket Abandonment, by GFS, a delivery company, and Retail Economics, a consultancy, says that 83 per cent of retailers believe they offer delivery options that meet customers' needs, but only 48 per cent of consumers agreed.

Three in five retailers in the study offered express or next-day delivery and less than half provided nominated delivery or parcel pick-up points. Parcels left in insecure places, poor packaging and difficulties returning items were the top three "pain" points.

Richard Lim, chief executive at Retail Economics, said consumer expectations were "higher than ever before" and they showed "little tolerance" for brands unable to meet these levels.

"It's clear that with such a high proportion of online baskets being left abandoned at the point of checkout, retailers need to prioritise offering a range of delivery options to suit their customers' needs if they are to win."

Bobbie Ttooulis, executive board member at GFS, said: "The research validates, and more importantly puts a value on, what we've always known to be true: that lack of delivery options results in lost sales at the checkout. In our experience, retailers are well aware of this, but struggle to overcome the internal costs and complexities."

Allan sells his stake in mentoring business

Isabella Fish Retail Editor

John Allan, the outgoing chairman of Tesco and a former CBI president, is to sell his 20 per cent stake in a firm that mentors executives at leading companies, days after he announced his exit from Britain's biggest supermarket.

Tesco announced on Friday that Allan would step down because allegations about his behaviour risked becoming a "distraction". The grocer found no evidence of wrongdoing.

Allan, 74, has denied three of the four claims made against him, and apologised for the fourth, in which he allegedly told a mid-ranking CBI manager at the lobby group's annual conference in November 2019: "That dress really suits your figure." He has also been accused of touching the bottom of one woman at a CBI annual dinner — he denies this happened.

John Allan will leave his Tesco role next month



He is understood to be negotiating to sell his stake in J&A Mentoring to his co-founder, Anna Joseph, with whom he helped develop the business in 2018, as first reported by Sky. Reports suggest that Allan intends to remain involved with the company, despite some of his details being removed from J&A's website on Friday, when his resignation as Tesco chairman was announced. However, Joseph told Sky that a shareholder agreement created at the time of the company's launch "anticipated her acquiring his stake after five years".

He is also the chairman of Barratt Developments, the housebuilder, which has remained tight-lipped about whether Allan would serve out the rest of his term until September as planned.

Allan led the CBI during the period when some of the most serious alleged incidents to have emerged in recent weeks are said to have taken place. They were not linked to Allan himself.

Matthew Fell, UK chief policy director at the CBI, said yesterday that he had decided to leave after 24 years. He said he was joining BusinessLDN, a not-for-profit advocacy group that represents about 175 London-based businesses.

J&A Mentoring Partners did not respond to a request for comment.

Mehreen Khan



Putting power in private hands for clean energy race stores up trouble

The publication of the belated national semiconductor strategy last week was as disappointing as it was late.

The government's pledge of £1 billion over the next decade to build domestic chip production pales in comparison with the hundreds of billions of dollars on offer under President Biden's Chips and Science Act or plans by the European Union to hive off a part of global semiconductor production for itself by 2030.

Britain's paltry attempt to get involved in the global chip wars shows who are the front-runners in this new age of green industrial policy. It is the US and EU that are trying to outcompete each other to match China's economic might in clean energy technologies and raw materials, with the UK barely a player in this high-spending game.

That's no surprise. Last September Liz Truss ensured the UK lost the generosity of the financial markets to engage in a borrowing blitz, even for strategic industrial investments. The current chancellor is focused on tracking monthly inflation figures and meeting his self-imposed fiscal targets before a general election next year.

Britain has been consigned to the margins of the global green arms race by the US's 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, which throws taxpayer subsidies and tax credits at companies in clean energy technologies and electric vehicle manufacturing for the next ten years. Total government support could exceed $800 billion because the tax credits will be dished out according to how much demand the act generates.

Yet even as the act's real impact has yet to hit, multinationals outside the US have started demanding equally generous treatment as the price to keep jobs and plants open in their economies. The chipmaker Intel has asked the German government for an extra $5 billion to establish a long-awaited chip plant in Magdeburg.



President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act aims to spur green tech spending

Sweden's Northvolt, Europe's most important battery-maker, will decide within weeks whether to set up a new giga-factory as promised in Germany or abandon it in favour of US largesse.

Critics of the Inflation Reduction Act's state intervention have mostly been on the right, championing free trade over protectionism and warning that public money risks being wasted on white elephant projects.

A more nuanced critique comes from parts of the progressive left, who otherwise would have been cheerleaders for significant state intervention and radical climate ambition.

Some economists on this side of the fence have railed against Biden's act as a prime example of the modern "de-risking state". This describes a relationship between the state and private capital in which governments actively reduce investment risk for businesses in key sectors.

Daniela Gabor, professor of economics at the University of the West of England, says this state-capital relationship involves lots of carrots for the private sector, in the form of grants and tax credits that will boost corporate profits and companies' market shares, with almost no sticks. These can be in the form of tougher rules to tax the use of carbon and robust regulatory bodies to enforce climate compliance and impose penalties.

Brett Christophers, a professor at Uppsala University in Sweden, thinks Biden's climate subsidies will entrench the power of active asset management firms that extract rents through their ownership of America's road network, electricity grid and housing stock. Recent public resentment against the UK's water companies, many of which are owned by foreign capital, shows the dangers that come when the state abandons public infrastructure to shadowy parts of the financial sector, according to Christophers.

"The consequences for the public at large, whose wellbeing depends on the quality and cost of a host of infrastructure-based services, from energy to transportation, are unlikely to be positive," he wrote in The New York Times this month. "Without increasing taxes on corporations and capital income, or taking industries into direct public ownership, state subsidies imply a transfer of resources from labour and the public sector to capital, exacerbating inequalities," he told the New Statesman.

It's unsurprising then that Wall Street titans have hailed the transformative impact of the new law. Christophers picks out Brookfield asset management as having one of the fastest-growing renewable asset portfolios in the world. Its chairman and head of transition investing is Mark Carney, former Bank of England governor and an enthusiast of the new legislation. Larry Fink, head of BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, has described the returns to be made on US subsidies as "easily" in the range of 12-14 per cent.

Those sympathetic to the act's broader goal to achieve decarbonisation may shrug off the unintended consequences, even if it means concentrating more power in the hands of multinationals and private capital, which will be in charge of executing the green transition.

Those who want industrial policy to promote a socially fair and democratic path to net zero think there is an alternative. In this, the UK could provide some hope.

Although the Tories have abjectly failed to devise a meaty response to the act, being last to the party might have some advantages for the Labour Party. The opposition has sketched out plans for a green sovereign wealth fund that involves taking a stake in the country's clean energy projects and the creation of a publicly owned renewable energy producer called Great British Energy.

Both schemes could put the UK at the forefront of a more democratically controlled industrial policy that does not cede power to the private sector to manage the transition from fossil fuels.

Labour's plans may never see the light of day, but the US law should be the first of many experiments to transform modern economies to net zero rather than a blueprint for the rest of the world.

Mehreen Khan is Economics Editor of The Times

Ian King

If bosses offer help with grocery bills, shopping for staff must be tough

In current tight labour markets, staff retention is critical. Retaining a valued employee is cheaper than replacing one who has resigned. Putting a price on staff retention is difficult, though. An employee's goodwill towards their employer is intangible and, while a human resources director can always spell out the cost of replacing an employee, it is not always possible to prove how much they have saved the business by keeping another.

A little-reported transaction last week highlighted the worth companies put on employee engagement and how profitable the business of helping employers with staff retention has become.

Reward Gateway, a UK-based employee engagement platform whose software is used by clients including Samsung, Heineken, Marks & Spencer and Vodafone, agreed to a takeover by the €15 billion French payment solutions specialist Edenred. It valued Reward Gateway, which was founded in 2006 and which had been owned since 2021 by the private equity firms Abry Partners and Castik Capital, at £1.15 billion.

> 'The importance of supporting employees with wellbeing exploded during Covid, especially the younger ones'

Bertrand Dumazy, Edenred's chairman and chief executive, said he expected Reward Gateway to generate revenues of £95 million during 2023 and ebitda (earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation and amortisation) of £45 million. The business has raised free cash flow generation by 45 per cent in each of the past four years.

The company, which employs some 650 people in Britain, America, Australia and Bulgaria, offers four types of engagement: employee savings, rewards and recognition, well-being and "social animation". People whose careers began in the go-get-'em 1980s will regard the latter two with cynicism.

However, the importance of supporting employees with well-being exploded during the pandemic, particularly the younger workers rapidly becoming the majority in workforces.

The extent of this shift is detailed on Reward Gateway's website. A breakdown of its workforce by generation reveals that only 1 per cent are Boomers and just 11 per cent are from Generation X. The rest are Millennials or Generation Z. The disclosures don't stop there: the company also reveals that a majority of its employees in each country is female, while breakdowns by religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, physical ability, neurodiversity and diet are also provided. It's easy to see how in future, identity-fixated younger workers will routinely expect such breakdowns for potential employers.

That said, the current driver of growth in employee engagement is inflation, as employers seek to generate loyalty by offering help with the cost of living.

Nick Burns, chief executive of Reward Gateway, said staff discounts were proving particularly popular among employers trying to support employees, not just with big-ticket technology purchases, but even groceries. He added: "[It's about] the immediacy to help them financially. There's a big pressure on employers now to try and make that happen… to take the sting out of the cost of living."

The addressable market for these players is growing. There is no reason why a service sold to the likes of Samsung or Vodafone cannot be scaled down to a smaller business customer. Some of Reward Gateway's clients have as few as three or four employees.

The idea of using staff benefits to generate retention is not new. British employers began offering luncheon vouchers after the Second World War while childcare vouchers have been around since 1989. Savings schemes, private medical insurance and other employee benefits have also grown strongly.

The price Edenred has paid for Reward Gateway does not just represent an attempt to expand its share of that industry as it broadens its offering. It also represents a big bet on the war for talent continuing.

Ian King is business presenter for Sky News. Ian King Live is broadcast at 1.30pm from Monday to Friday

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Traders ‘were ordered to rig Libor’ in 2008 crash

The second extract from **Andy Verity’s** book reveals that, in a previously secret interview, the rate-setter Peter Johnson told investigators that central banks and governments had applied the pressure, but his evidence was never made public

An instruction from Downing Street to lower Libor, a measure of the price at which banks lend to each other, on October 29, 2008 wasn’t the only thing that no one was supposed to know about. It was much bigger than that.

Barclays’ Mark Dearlove and Jon Stone, the bank’s group treasurer, told the Bank of England on November 4, 2008, they thought there had been political pressure on French banks to cut their contributions to Euribor, the equivalent of Libor for euros. That was corroborated by the data on what interest rates each bank had submitted.

The French banks had suddenly, as one, dropped their submissions of their estimates of the cost of borrowing euros in the days that followed a co-ordinated central bank interest rate cut on October 8, 2008.

The scale of the drop – around 40 basis points – was bigger than any previous movement, including after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. It couldn’t be explained by market factors because the other banks in the same market for borrowing and lending euros had not been similarly affected (German banks, for example, hadn’t moved).

After Gordon Brown’s meeting with European leaders in Paris on October 11 and 12, Italian banks and Spanish banks had done the same. Only the national central banks such as Banque de France and Banca d’Italia were in a position to arrange co-ordinated moves like that. The evidence suggested it wasn’t just the UK government and Bank of England, but Banque de France, Banco de España, Banca d’Italia and other central banks and governments around the world, all co-ordinating to get Libor and Euribor down.

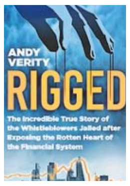
After Barclays’ internal investigators discovered an audio recording of a call between Dearlove and the senior Libor setter Peter Johnson, the US justice department began a criminal investigation. On November 19, 2010, the FBI interviewed Johnson at Canary Wharf, with US regulators the Department of Justice, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), the Securities and Exchange Commission and the UK regulator the Financial Services Authority all in attendance. The interview has never been published before.

At 5.26pm, the interview recommenced. This was one chance to get the truth on the record and Johnson had made up his mind to come out and say who he believed lay behind pressure to bring Libor rates down.

Agent Kelly pulled out an unofficial



An FBI interview at Canary Wharf focused



Rigged: The Incredible True Story of the Whistleblowers Jailed after Exposing the Rotten Heart of the Financial System **by Andy Verity will be published on June 1 (Flint Books, £25)**



China bans US chipmaker as national security risk

Didi Tang Beijing

China has banned operators of key information infrastructure from buying memory chips from America’s Micron Technology, saying they pose serious risks to network security and would harm national security.

The decision by the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) deepens the dispute over chip technology between Washington and Beijing.

The CAC said: “The review found Micron’s products have serious network security risks, which pose significant security risks to China’s critical information infrastructure supply chain, affecting China’s national security.”

Micron said it had received the CAC’s notice of the conclusion of its review of its products sold in China and looks “forward to continuing to engage in discussions with Chinese authorities”.

The CAC did not provide details of what risks it had found or what Micron products would be affected.

The US commerce department said the restrictions “have no basis in fact”. It added: “This action, along with recent raids and targeting of other US firms, is inconsistent with the People’s Republic of China’s assertions that it is opening its markets and committed to a transparent regulatory framework.

“We will engage directly with [the Chinese] authorities to detail our position and clarify their action. We also will engage with key allies and partners to ensure we are closely co-ordinated to address distortions of the memory chip market caused by China’s actions.”

Analysts at Jefferies said Micron’s largest customers in China for its memory chips were consumer electronics firms such as phone and computer manufacturers, not infrastructure suppliers. “Therefore, the ultimate impact on Micron will be quite limited.”



on bank borrowing costs around the time of an October 2008 meeting in Paris at which Angela Merkel, Nicolas Sarkozy and Gordon Brown discussed the financial crisis

transcript of Dearlove's call to Johnson on October 29, 2008 and showed it to Johnson. "Right," he said. "Did you have any understanding as to why this pressure was being put upon Barclays?'

"I'm not sure that it was being put just on Barclays," Johnson replied. Kelly asked: "OK? Who else did you think was being pressured?" "We understood that the French banks had been told to get their rates down. It's not in this transcript, but we understood that's what had happened."

Kelly asked: "What entity was pressuring them?"

"We believe it was the Banque du France."

"'The Bank of France?" "Yes."

"So the national bank of the respective country?"

"Yes […]"

Kelly went on to refer to Dearlove's comments in the call about "very serious pressure from the UK government and the Bank of England about pushing our Libors lower".

The FBI agent asked: "You've mentioned the Bank of England already, there is a reference here to the UK government?" Johnson replied: "Yes."

Kelly asked who Dearlove, Johnson's boss, had been referring to when he had said: "These guys don't see it. They're bent out of shape. They're calling everyone from [Bob] Diamond to [John] Varley."

"I have no absolute knowledge," said Johnson, "but my assumption was — is — the UK government or Bank of England."

Johnson told Kelly that the direction came from "senior management" including Diamond and Varley.

"I just want to make sure I understand your frame of mind — that your understanding was that you were going to have to change, lower your Libors, in a manner that was not in line with the British Bankers Association's definition of Libor?" Kelly asked.

"Just nowhere near in line," said Johnson. There was one thing which had given him comfort, he said. In late October, just before he'd been given the instruction by Dearlove, a sudden change took place on the money markets.

It had been weeks since there were any serious offers to lend cash. But then one of the few big Wall Street banks strong enough to survive the banking crisis without taxpayer help, Chase New York, had all at once come into the market and started offering to lend — a significant event.

Anne Termine, of the CFTC, said she had information that Chase was offering funds at 4.68 per cent but had put its Libor submission of the cost of borrowing at 3.25 per cent.

Johnson confirmed there were rumours surrounding Chase at the time. "What were they?" asked Termine.

"That the Fed had asked it to lend money into the market."

Before the interview wrapped up at 7.30pm, Johnson had given the US investigators names, dates and figures — in his view, all they needed to investigate, expose and prosecute what had every appearance of an unprecedented financial scandal.

It involved top bank bosses, central banks and governments across the western world pressuring him and others, in some cases against their protests, to change their Libor submissions in a way that violated the BBA definition, to serve the commercial interests of the banks — the very same actions for which traders would later be jailed.

He had pointed the US authorities to the Bank of England, the Banque de France and the Fed, supplying all the evidence and investigative leads the FBI, CFTC, SEC and DOJ could have wished for to set about proving that.

However, just like the tape of the instructions he received from Dearlove, Johnson's interview with the FBI and the regulators was not produced in public. The important information it contained was not made available for the scrutiny of parliament, the press or the public, nor for juries in rate-rigging trials in London that would result in traders being sent to prison.

TOMORROW
How regulators' public statements compared with what was really happening

Wise finance chief quits over bike crash

Patrick Hosking Financial Editor

The finance chief at Wise has announced plans to step down, days after a colleague was chosen to stand in for the chief executive and founder when he takes a three-month sabbatical.

Matthew Briers said he was leaving the money-transfer group after eight years to focus on making a full recovery from a cycling accident. He suffered the accident in February last year and returned to work three months later.

He said: "Some of you may know that a year ago I returned back to work at Wise after a quite horrible accident where I went under the wheels of a bus, and so, with this in mind, my focus will shift to making a full recovery."

Less than two weeks ago, Kristo Kaarmann announced he was taking temporary absence from the company and named Harsh Sinha, the chief technology officer, as his stand-in.

The appointment raised eyebrows for some because Briers was regarded as the more senior person, sitting on the main board and taking a prominent role in relations with shareholders and the media.

Briers said he would carry on "into next year" to support an orderly transition plan. He said in a statement: "After almost eight years it's time for me to think about my life after Wise. Wise will likely have many CFOs in its first century and this is simply me starting the process of handing over the reins to the next one."

£5.9bn
Valuation of Wise, which floated on the London exchange in 2021
Source: LSE

Kaarmann paid tribute to his colleague: "Matt joined us at the time when only around 500,000 people had used Wise and we were losing money. He helped us scale up into a global service that today 16 million people and businesses around the world know they can count on." Kaarmann is standing down in September to spend more time with his two young children. Shares in Wise, formerly Transferwise, closed down 4 per cent, or 24p, at 575½p.

The business was founded in 2011 by Kaarmann and Taavet Hinrikus and processes on average £9 billion in cross-border transactions every month. It floated in London in 2021 and is valued at £5.9 billion, but is not in the FTSE 100 because of an unorthodox share structure.

Analysts at Jefferies said the departure of Briers, and Kaarmann's sabbatical, "point to unfortunate timing given Wise is facing some challenging times ahead", with the group's share price performance lagging behind the wider fintech and payments sector.

But they said the management changes could lead to a more permanent shift at the top if Kaarmann decided to take on a "broader role to drive the business" following his sabbatical.

Tempus, page 40

Increase in insolvencies is boost for Begbies Traynor

Helen Cahill

Begbies Traynor is on course to deliver double-digit revenue growth as the insolvency firm continues to expect more challenges for UK businesses.

The Aim-listed restructuring adviser expected revenues to rise by 11 per cent to £122 million for the year ended April 30 and profit before tax was on course to increase by 16 per cent to £20.7 million.

The company said it had seen "good momentum" in new appointments to handle company insolvencies and that there had been a "significant increase in higher value cases".

Restructuring firms have said they are likely to see greater activity this year as more companies try to negotiate debt terms at higher interest rates and navigate higher business costs.

Ric Traynor, executive chairman, said: "We performed strongly in the financial year, with results ahead of market expectations, aided by our increased scale and enhanced reputation in mid-market insolvency."

FRP Advisory, another restructuring firm, said last week that it expected to become busier in the second half of the year when corporate balance sheets come under pressure from higher interest rates, energy bills and the upheaval in global supply chains.

A number of high-profile companies have been subject to restructurings in recent weeks. Wilko, the value retailer, is considering cutting costs using an insolvency process known as a company voluntary arrangement, according to Bloomberg. The company is working on a plan with advisers at PwC.

Party Pieces, a children's party business owned by the Princess of Wales's parents, went through a pre-pack administration and was bought by the entrepreneur James Sinclair.

Business

The Times unit trust information service

ALLIANZ GLOBAL INVESTORS
Inv Serv: 020 7065 1400 Helpline: 0800 317 573

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilt Yield A ‡@	206.01	...	+0.27	1.05
Strategic Bond Fund ‡@	149.83	...	+0.08	4.57
UK Corp Bond C ‡@	104.79	...	-0.78	3.87
UK Eqty C ‡@	6317.26	...	-14.91	3.28
UK Eqty Inc A ‡@	324.53	...	-0.28	4.51
UK Gwth A ‡@	8103.35	...	-17.01	...
UK Index A Inc ‡@	1423.81	...	-5.83	3.01
UK Mid Cap A ‡@	4654.61	...	-11.35	...

ARTEMIS FUND MGRS LTD
0800 092 2051
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Capital R Acc ‡@	2199.42	...	+3.63	3.35
Euro Opps R Acc ‡@	91.26	...	-0.48	1.29
Euro Opps R Inc ‡@	85.36	...	-0.46	1.30
European Growth R Acc ‡@	408.53	...	+1.42	1.87
Global Energy R Acc ‡@	39.04	...	-0.07	1.21
Global Growth R Acc ‡@	340.31	...	+0.33	...
Global Income R Acc ‡@	152.71	...	-0.11	4.33
Global Income R Inc ‡@	96.00	...	-0.07	4.54
Global Select R Acc ‡@	151.49	...	-0.33	...
High Income R Inc ‡@	62.18	...	+0.04	...
Income R Acc ‡@	518.09	...	-0.53	3.77
Income R Inc ‡@	222.42	...	-0.23	3.89
Monthly Dist R Inc ‡@	63.34	...	+0.02	4.84
Strategic Assets R Acc ‡@	92.40	...	-0.47	...
Strategic Bond R M Acc ‡@	95.10	...	+0.04	3.69
Strategic Bond R M Inc ‡@	49.47	...	+0.03	3.78
Strategic Bond R Q Acc ‡@	94.93	...	+0.04	3.69
Strategic Bond R Q Inc ‡@	49.42	...	+0.02	3.76
UK Growth R Acc ‡@	748.04	...	-0.02	2.14
UK Smaller Cos R Acc ‡@	1847.36	...	-4.07	...
UK Special Sits R Acc ‡@	716.51	...	+0.22	1.11

AXA FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Dling: 0845 602 1952 Priv Clients: 0845 777 5511

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Inc ‡@	572.40	...	-2.70	4.43
Gilt Acc @	201.30	211.80	+0.10	1.08
Gilt Inc @	74.35	78.24	-0.39	1.09
Health Acc ‡@	3029.00	...	+9.00	...
Jap Smlr Co Ac @	62.56	66.09	-0.19	0.30
Managed Inc ‡@	138.30	...	...	4.20
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	209.40	...	-0.30	5.97
UK Growth Inc ‡@	218.60	...	-0.50	0.64
UK Select Opps Inc ‡@	1891.00	...	-10.00	1.14
UK Sml Cos Inc ‡@	261.00	...	-0.40	0.04

AXA FUND MANAGERS LTD
Admin & Enq 0117 989 0808
AXA Trusts

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gen Acc ‡@	2101.00	...	+6.00	2.64
Gen Inc ‡@	1079.00	...	-2.00	2.70

UK/Global Investment Companies

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Acc A ‡@	234.70	...	...	1.18
Extra Inc Inc B ‡@	86.74	...	+0.24	1.16
Global Gwth Acc R ‡@	288.10	...	+4.10	0.52
Japan Acc A ‡@	162.30	...	+2.20	1.51
Pac Gwth Acc A ‡@	479.80	...	-17.60	...

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
08457 46 46 46

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Gwth ‡@	216.90	...	+0.30	1.10
Sus Leaders ‡@	812.70	...	+0.10	1.15
UK Growth ‡@	634.10	...	-1.40	2.04
UK Income ‡@	205.80	...	-0.10	5.09

CLOSE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
0870 606 6402

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Beacon Inv ‡	84.88	...	+0.35	0.01

Dealing: 020 7426 6232

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Winchester ‡	3622.26	...	+53.37	1.02

EDENTREE INV MGMT LTD
0800 358 3010

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Resp & Sust Sterling Bond ‡	83.80	...	+0.14	4.13
Resp & Sust Eurp Eq ‡	330.40	...	+0.90	1.91
Resp & Sust Glbl Eq ‡	339.10	...	-0.20	0.53
Resp & Sust Mgd Income ‡	123.10	...	+0.20	4.87
Resp & Sust UK Eq ‡	224.10	...	-1.70	1.53
Resp & Sust UK Equity Opps ‡	277.40	...	-0.80	1.16

F & C FUND MANAGEMENT LTD (OEICS)
Enqs: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083
Share Class 1 - Retail

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corporate Bd ‡@	49.99	...	-0.31	1.57
Emerging Mkts ‡@	116.50	...	-0.50	...
Euro Gwth & Inc 1 ‡@	1288.00	...	-2.00	...
Extra Inc Bond ‡@	43.50	...	+0.02	1.88
FTSE All-Shr Track ‡@	431.00	...	-0.80	2.90
Global Gwth SC1 ‡@	309.50	...	-0.60	...
High Inc Trst @	10.97	11.56	-0.02	5.52
Max Inc Bond ‡@	42.83	...	+0.03	3.39
Multi Man Caut ‡@	70.41	...	...	3.18
Multi Man Distr ‡@	60.44	...	...	3.37
North Amer ‡@	833.10	...	-3.60	...
Pacific Gwth ‡@	476.40	...	+1.90	...
Strategic Bd ‡@	194.10	...	-0.10	1.46
UK Equity ‡@	3446.00	...	+2.00	1.27
UK Gwth & Inc Acc 1 ‡@	658.50	...	...	...
UK Gwth & Inc Dist ‡@	234.70	...	...	...
UK Smaller Cos ‡@	1031.00	...	-1.00	...

FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL
Private Clnts 0800 414161 Broker Dlgs 0800 414181

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Spec Sits ‡@	2180.00	...	-5.00	...
American ‡@	5390.00	...	-22.00	...
Euro Opps ‡@	608.50	...	+0.70	0.31
European ‡@	3613.00	...	+6.00	...
Extra Income ‡@	22.13	...	+0.03	5.55
Glob Spec Sits ‡@	5590.00	...	+1.00	...
Global Focus ‡@	2962.00	...	-5.00	...
International ‡@	149.50	...	+0.20	0.08
Japan ‡@	576.20	...	+2.80	...
Moneybldr Bal ‡@	43.37	...	+0.03	3.86
Moneybldr Glob	327.60	327.60	-0.10	0.21
Moneybldr Gwth ‡@	76.12	...	-0.95	2.97
Moneybldr Inc ‡@	28.75	...	+0.06	...
Moneybldr UK Ind ‡@	131.94	...	-0.24	3.14
Special Sits ‡@	4516.00	...	+3.00	2.56
Wealthbuilder	69.75	72.18	+0.53	0.44

HALIFAX INVESTMENT FUND MGRS LTD
01296 386 386
Authorised Inv Funds
Share Class `C

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corporate Bond ‡@	32.27	...	+0.27	...
Ethical ‡@	113.10	...	-0.30	0.01
European ‡@	116.00	...	+0.30	1.91
Far Eastern ‡	112.90	...	...	...
Fund of Inv Tst ‡@	135.70	...	-0.40	0.43
Intl Gwth ‡	127.70	...	-0.20	1.44
Japanese ‡	72.81	...	+0.26	...
North Amer ‡	151.60	...	-0.40	...
Smaller Cos ‡@	105.30	...	...	1.17
Special Sits ‡@	51.63	...	+0.30	...
UK Equity Inc ‡@	93.34	...	+0.40	3.75
UK FTSE 100 IT ‡@	72.14	...	-0.14	...
UK FTSE All-S IT ‡@	81.51	...	+0.33	...
UK Growth ‡@	83.79	...	-0.18	...

HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MGMT (UK) LTD
Enq: 0845 745 6123 Dlg: 0845 745 6126 Mon-Fri 8-6
HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Ind Acc ‡@	933.02	...	-2.82	...
Amer Ind Inc ‡@	739.47	...	-2.23	...
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	1246.09	...	+2.75	2.13
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	775.61	...	+1.71	2.20
FTSE 100 Ind Acc ‡@	284.68	...	-0.46	2.99
FTSE 100 Ind Inc ‡@	127.12	...	-0.21	3.06
FTSE 250 Ind Acc ‡@	290.48	...	-1.01	2.25
FTSE 250 Ind Inc ‡@	173.20	...	-0.60	2.25
FTSE All-S Acc ‡@	722.31	...	-1.30	3.02
FTSE All-S Inc ‡@	358.88	...	-0.65	3.09
Jap Ind Acc ‡@	148.50	...	+0.73	1.93
Jap Ind Inc ‡@	113.52	...	+0.55	2.25
Pac Ind Acc ‡@	505.00	...	+0.03	...
Pac Ind Inc ‡@	306.74	...	+0.01	...

HSBC Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Share Class

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Acc ‡@	243.56	...	-0.38	0.92
Balanced Inc ‡@	151.95	...	-0.14	...
Corp Bd Acc ‡@	263.49	...	+0.56	...
Corp Bd Inc ‡@	101.30	...	+0.21	...
Gilt & Fd Int Acc ‡@	497.78	...	+1.62	...
Gilt & Fd Int Inc ‡@	74.17	...	+0.24	...
Income Acc ‡@	727.87	...	-1.75	4.09
Income Inc ‡@	298.64	...	-0.72	4.22
Monthly Inc Acc ‡@	313.41	...	+0.77	3.21
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	128.89	...	-0.07	3.90
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Acc ‡@	149.04	...	-0.25	4.01
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Inc ‡@	65.79	...	-0.11	4.13
UK Gth & Inc Acc ‡@	149.04	...	-0.25	4.01
UK Gth & Inc Inc ‡@	65.79	...	-0.11	4.13

HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Index Retail Acc ‡@	933.02	...	-2.82	...
American Index Retail Inc ‡@	739.47	...	-2.23	...
Asian Gth Acc ‡@	147.77	...	-0.07	...
Asian Gth Inc ‡@	130.99	...	-0.06	...
Chinese Eq Acc ‡@	513.81	...	+0.27	...
Chinese Eq Inc ‡@	434.76	...	+0.22	...
Euro Gth Acc ‡@	973.97	...	+4.05	0.41
Euro Gth Inc ‡@	817.05	...	+3.39	0.44

IGNIS ASSET MGMT
Dlg: 0141 222 8282

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gth Inc @	322.55	340.42	-3.34	...
Balanced Growth @	262.17	276.69	-0.93	1.52
Balanced Growth Acc @	393.13	414.92	-1.40	1.49
Corporate Bond ‡@	99.69	...	-0.89	4.77
European Growth @	403.88	426.26	-3.57	2.18
European Growth Acc @	475.71	502.07	-4.21	2.24
Glob Gwth @	331.53	349.90	-3.09	...
Higher Yield @	83.98	88.64	-0.29	4.43
Higher Yield Acc @	275.04	290.28	-0.92	4.32
Japan @	49.06	51.78	-0.03	...
Managed @	130.89	138.15	-0.06	0.66
Managed Trust @	71.96	76.96	+0.17	...
Mngd Pfolio Inc @	95.54	100.84	-0.11	0.58
Pacific Grth @	498.71	526.34	-2.81	1.34
Smaller Comp @	756.24	798.14	+1.64	0.15
Smaller Cos @	628.94	663.79	+1.36	0.21

INSIGHT INVESTMENT FDS MANAGEMENT LTD
Client Servs: 0207 163 4000
Insight Investment Multi-Manager Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Well Bldr Bal Acc ‡@	96.05	...	-0.32	...
Well Bldr Gwth Acc ‡@	93.79	...	-0.36	...

INVESCO FUND MGRS LTD
Dling: 0800 085 8571 Inv Serv: 0800 085 8677
Brkr Serv: 0800 028 2121
INVESCO Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Str Inc N/Trl ‡@	323.57	...	-0.12	7.05

INVESCO PERPETUAL Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Childrens Acc ‡@	476.27	...	+0.19	2.27
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	197.57	...	+0.38	...
High Income Inc ‡@	319.86	...	-0.33	3.93
Income & Grth Inc ‡@	424.26	...	-0.68	3.03
Income Inc ‡@	1254.84	...	-2.56	3.49
Money Acc ‡@	93.12	...	+0.02	1.65
Monthly Inc Plus Inc ‡@	90.89	...	+0.19	6.18
UK Aggressive Inc ‡@	154.28	...	-0.24	...
UK Growth Acc ‡@	919.53	...	-0.87	1.62
UK Sml Cos Eqty Acc ‡@	1345.96	...	+0.29	...
UK Sml Cos Gwth ‡@	82.54	...	+0.04	...

INVESTEC FUND MGRS
Broker Support and Dealing: 020 7597 1900
OEIC Series i,ii,iii, & iv

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American A Acc ‡@	695.62	...	+9.60	...
Asia ex Japan A Acc ‡@	738.70	...	+1.88	...
Capital Accumulator A Acc ‡@	231.48	...	-3.81	...
Cautious Managed A Acc ‡@	374.72	...	-0.71	1.91
Cautious Managed A Inc ‡@	234.79	...	-0.44	1.90
Diversified Growth A Acc ‡@	127.62	...	-0.84	0.60
Diversified Growth A Inc ‡@	135.14	...	-0.89	...
Diversified Income A Acc ‡@	321.15	...	-0.72	2.82
Diversified Income A Inc ‡@	67.76	...	-0.15	4.24
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc ‡@	112.41	...	-0.30	4.84
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc Gross ‡@	125.82	...	+0.20	...
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Inc ‡@	64.27	...	-0.17	6.70
Emerging Mkts Equity A Acc ‡@	144.91	...	-0.03	0.96
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Acc ‡@	182.53	...	-0.85	5.02
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Inc ‡@	70.72	...	-0.34	5.26
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt Gross I Acc ‡@	220.49	...	-0.05	...
Enhanced Natural Resources A Acc ‡@	134.24	...	-1.25	...
Global Bond A Acc ‡@	139.30	...	+4.03	...
Global Bond A Inc ‡@	109.33	...	+3.00	...
Global Bond I Gross Inc ‡@	1167.00	...	+29.78	...
Global Dynamic A Acc ‡@	193.61	...	+1.95	0.47
Global Energy A Acc ‡@	170.97	...	-1.14	...
Global Equity A Acc ‡@	234.40	...	+1.04	0.13
Global Franchise A Acc ‡@	311.77	...	+3.39	...
Global Free Enterprise A Acc ‡@	1256.29	...	+9.22	0.38
Global Gold A Acc ‡@	199.85	...	-3.94	0.80
Global Special Situations A Acc ‡@	319.13	...	-0.31	...
Global Special Situations A Inc ‡@	246.85	...	-0.24	...
Managed Growth A Acc ‡@	277.66	...	-2.81	...
Monthly High Income A Acc ‡@	243.45	...	+0.43	3.54
Monthly High Income A Inc ‡@	63.17	...	+0.01	5.01
Multi-Asset Protector A Acc ‡@	166.92	...	-0.07	...
Strategic Bond A Acc ‡@	244.54	...	+0.19	...
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	119.47	...	+0.09	...
Target Return A Acc ‡@	102.03	...	+0.44	0.82
Target Return A Inc ‡@	87.63	...	+0.01	0.87
UK Alpha A Acc ‡@	2730.90	...	+7.85	1.95
UK Blue Chip A Acc ‡@	770.11	...	+3.15	...
UK Smaller Companies A Acc ‡@	4668.28	...	-0.90	...
UK Smaller Companies A Inc ‡@	4187.16	...	-0.81	...
UK Special Situations A Acc ‡@	1424.10	...	-2.21	1.54
UK Special Situations A Inc ‡@	510.50	...	-0.79	1.57

For ISIS Asset Mgmt see F&C Fd Mgmt Ltd (OEICS)

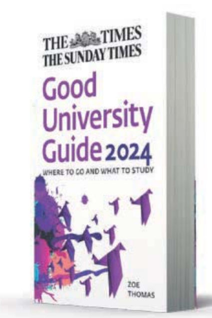
JANUS HENDERSON INVESTORS
Investors Serv: 0800 832 832 Dlng: 0845 946 4646

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
All Stks Credit A Inc ‡@	112.00	...	+0.20	2.12
Asian Div Inc U Trst Inc ‡@	76.84	...	+0.21	6.03
Cautious Man Fd A Acc ‡@	286.80	...	...	...
Cautious Man Fd A Inc ‡@	140.20	...	...	...
China Opp Fund A Acc ‡@	1097.00	...	+11.00	0.28
Emg Mkts Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	190.70	...	+0.80	0.76
Erpn Grth Fund A Acc ‡@	306.50	...	+0.30	1.15
Erpn Sel Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	2339.00	...	-1.00	1.15
Fix Int Mnthly Inc Fd Acc ‡@	28.32	...	-0.03	4.79
Global Equity Fund Acc ‡@	4225.00	...	-6.00	...
Global Equity Income A Inc ‡@	67.74	...	+0.12	3.28
Global Tech A Acc ‡@	3082.00	...	-10.00	...
Instl UK Idx Opps A Acc ‡@	116.93	...	-0.24	2.87
M-Asset Abs Ret A Acc ‡@	163.90	...	...	0.81
M-Man Active Fd A Acc ‡@	258.10	...	+0.40	...
M-Man Inc Grth A Inc ‡@	146.70	...	-0.10	2.71
M-Man Inc Grth Fd A Acc ‡@	188.60	...	-0.10	...
Sterling Bond U Trst Acc ‡@	201.60	...	+0.30	1.82
Sterling Bond U Trst Inc ‡@	54.75	...	+0.09	1.84
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	101.90	...	-0.10	3.26
UK Abs Ret Fd A Acc ‡@	170.50	...	...	...
UK Alpha Fund A Acc ‡@	140.50	...	-0.70	1.12
UK Irsh Sm Co Fd A Acc ‡@	742.50	...	-1.70	...
UK Property A Acc @	264.95	278.15	+0.01	2.63
UK Property A Inc @	105.80	111.07	...	2.68
US Growth Fund A Acc ‡@	1758.00	...	-8.00	...

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OEIC

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Asia A Acc ‡@	259.00	...	+2.20	...
Emerging Mkts ‡@	261.50	...	+3.00	...
Eur Dyn (ex-UK) A Acc ‡@	270.30	...	+4.70	0.47
Euro Smllr Cos ‡@	864.00	...	+17.40	...
Europe A Acc ‡@	1734.00	...	+35.00	1.35
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Acc ‡@	117.30	...	+1.10	5.30
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Inc ‡@	30.89	...	+0.29	5.45
Gl ex-UK Bd A Acc ‡@	257.40	...	-0.70	0.07
Gl ex-UK Bd A Inc ‡@	196.80	...	-0.50	0.08
Glb Fins A Acc ‡@	1077.00	...	+1.00	...
Global A Acc ‡@	2049.00	...	+11.00	...
Japan A Acc ‡@	516.80	...	+6.20	...
Multi-Man Tst A Acc ‡@	1268.00	...	+16.00	0.57
Multi-Man Tst A Inc ‡@	1127.00	...	+15.00	0.58
Nat Resources ‡@	951.20	...	+17.30	...
New Europe A ‡@	155.70	...	+12.00	2.11
Portfolio ‡@	295.60	...	+0.40	0.98
Stg Corp Bd A Acc ‡@	85.59	...	-0.13	...
Stg Corp Bd A Inc ‡@	48.30	...	-0.08	...
UK Act 350 A Acc ‡@	199.00	...	-2.20	...
UK Dynamic Acc ‡@	206.70	...	+4.30	...
UK Dynamic Inc ‡@	148.20	...	+3.10	...
UK Equity A Acc ‡@	401.90	...	+0.60	3.45
UK Equity A Inc ‡@	46.44	...	+0.07	3.49
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Acc ‡@	167.10	...	-0.20	3.41
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Inc ‡@	90.29	...	-0.48	3.50
UK Higher Inc A Acc ‡@	1132.00	...	+7.00	...
UK Higher Inc A Inc ‡@	531.30	...	+2.00	...
UK Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	563.30	...	+7.00	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Acc ‡@	197.90	...	+3.50	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Inc ‡@	100.50	...	+1.77	...
US A Acc ‡@	1036.00	...	+25.00	...

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
US Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	976.20	...	+14.00	...

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
020 7581 3020

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Absolute Return ‡@	31.86	...	+0.01	0.11
Distribution and Growth ‡@	96.96	...	+0.18	...
Emg Euro Opps ‡@	145.34	...	-31.23	...
Euro Special Sits ‡@	473.70	...	+2.05	...
European ‡@	3028.11	...	+10.93	...
Financial Opps ‡@	701.17	...	+2.96	0.20
Income Trust ‡@	509.23	...	-0.59	3.92
Merlin Bal (Acc) ‡@	233.95	...	+2.05	2.05
Merlin Gwth (Acc) ‡@	544.96	...	+1.62	...
Merlin Inc (Acc) ‡@	344.15	...	+0.04	2.86
Merlin Wwide (Inc) ‡@	383.03	...	+2.40	...
UK Growth ‡@	265.02	...	-0.56	0.67
UK Special Sits (Inc) ‡@	207.99	...	-0.04	2.15

LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD
Enquiries: 0870 050 0955 Dealing: 0870 050 0956

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Acc @	2616.00	2639.00	-8.00	2.12
Equity Dist @	893.80	902.00	-2.70	2.15
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	548.60	...	+0.80	2.11
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	359.40	...	+0.50	2.16
Fixed Int Acc ‡@	129.30	...	+0.20	2.35
Fixed Int Dist ‡@	60.30	...	+0.12	2.38
Glob Gwth Acc @	243.90	243.90	-1.30	1.15
Glob Health Acc ‡@	109.90	...	+1.20	...
Glob Tech Acc ‡@	99.51	...	+1.27	...
Gwth Tst Acc @	106.00	106.50	-1.00	0.17
High Inc Acc ‡@	122.20	...	...	...
Japan Ind Acc ‡@	72.47	...	+0.47	1.75
Pacific Ind Acc ‡@	201.20	...	...	...
UK 100 Ind Acc @	180.90	180.90	+0.90	3.19
UK Active Opps Acc @	249.90	252.90	-0.10	...
UK Index Acc ‡@	353.60	...	-0.70	3.11
UK Index Dist ‡@	168.00	...	-0.30	3.19
US Ind Acc ‡@	821.50	...	+9.60	...
Worldwide Acc ‡@	340.30	...	+0.80	0.73

M & G SECURITIES
Enq: 0800 390 390 Dealing Line: 0800 328 3196
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Charifund Inc ‡	1467.14	...	-0.58	5.51

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 1

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos Acc ‡	525.29	...	-3.39	...
Euro Smlr Cos Inc ‡	462.50	...	-3.00	...

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 2

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Extra Income Inc ‡	692.65	...	-0.75	5.01
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc ‡	73.87	...	-0.71	2.59
Gl Hi Yd Bd Inc ‡	39.04	...	-0.02	5.66
Index Linked Bd Inc ‡	109.45	...	-1.45	...
Index Trckr Inc ‡	78.53	...	+0.02	3.63
Short Dated Corp Bd Inc ‡	24.95	...	-0.01	2.80
UK Select A Inc ‡	2842.84	...	+13.09	2.27

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 3

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bd A Inc ‡	32.99	...	-0.20	...
Dividend Inc ‡	52.90	...	-0.01	5.79
Recovery A Inc ‡	109.70	...	-0.06	3.50
Sml Cos Inc ‡	329.35	...	-0.11	2.41

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 4

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Episode Allocation A Inc ‡@	138.56	...	-0.07	...

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0808 005 5555

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
High Income	84.85	84.85	-0.14	4.19
High Income Acc	240.10	240.10	-0.40	4.08
UK 100 Comp Acc @	467.90	467.90	+0.90	2.87
UK 100 Cos @	229.80	229.80	+0.40	2.94
UK Select Pflo @	346.60	346.60	-1.50	3.17
UK Selection Port Acc @	717.30	717.30	-3.10	1.49
Worldwide Mgd Acc @	943.80	943.80	+1.70	1.30
Wwide Mgd @	552.00	552.00	+1.00	1.31

MORGAN STANLEY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
Enquires: 0800 0961 962
The Morgan Stanley Funds (UK)
Class A Shares
Equity

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Dev Opp Fund F Acc ‡@	761.85	...	+2.20	...
Dev Opp Fund I Acc ‡@	757.57	...	+2.17	...
Glob Bal Inc F F Acc ‡@	931.02	...	-0.73	...
Glob Bal Inc F F Inc ‡@	851.48	...	-0.67	...
Glob Bal Inc F I Acc ‡@	929.51	...	-0.73	...
Glob Bal Inc F I Inc ‡@	849.93	...	-0.67	...
Glob Bal Sust F F Acc ‡@	936.64	...	-0.41	...
Glob Bal Sust F F Inc ‡@	916.89	...	-0.40	...
Glob Bal Sust F I Acc ‡@	935.33	...	-0.42	...
Glob Bal Sust F I Inc ‡@	916.67	...	-0.40	...
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund F Inc ‡@	1330.43	...	-1.34	...
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Acc ‡@	1853.51	...	-1.91	...
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Inc ‡@	1422.61	...	-1.47	...
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1604.73	...	+0.06	0.70
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	13863.57	...	-13.41	...
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	1531.22	...	+0.04	0.70
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	3795.29	...	-3.68	...
Glob Ins Fund F Acc ‡@	550.48	...	-5.39	...
Glob Ins Fund F Inc ‡@	550.47	...	-5.40	...
Glob Ins Fund I Acc ‡@	547.66	...	-5.37	...
Glob Ins Fund I Inc ‡@	547.66	...	-5.38	...
Glob Sust Fund F Acc (PH) ‡@	1187.19	...	+1.44	0.62
Glob Sust Fund F Inc ‡@	1266.06	...	-0.04	0.62
Glob Sust Fund I Acc ‡@	1283.48	...	-0.05	0.47
Glob Sust Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1185.30	...	+1.45	0.47
Glob Sustain Fund F Acc ‡@	1290.77	...	-0.04	0.62
Stg Corp Bond F F Acc ‡@	119.22	...	+0.27	...
Stg Corp Bond F F Inc ‡@	93.25	...	+0.21	3.40
Stg Corp Bond F I Acc ‡@	2534.55	...	+5.73	...
Stg Corp Bond F I Inc ‡@	1322.85	...	+2.99	...
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Acc ‡@	931.73	...	+0.44	...
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Inc ‡@	886.59	...	+0.42	...
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Acc ‡@	927.20	...	+0.43	...
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Inc ‡@	886.29	...	+0.41	...
US Adv F F Acc ‡@	1507.63	...	-25.57	...
US Adv F F Acc (PH) ‡@	855.98	...	-13.38	...
US Adv F I Acc ‡@	1602.82	...	-27.23	...
US Adv F I Acc (PH) ‡@	896.58	...	-14.02	...

SANTANDER UNIT TST MGRS
08457 413002

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bal Pfolio Inc ‡@	110.50	...	+0.40	2.41
Bal Port Gwth Acc ‡@	232.30	...	-0.60	1.18
Equity Inc Inc ‡@	201.70	...	+0.60	5.12
N&P UK Gwth Inc ‡@	182.80	...	+0.10	3.09
Stkmkt 100 Tkr @	269.10	269.10	+0.20	3.11
UK Growth Acc ‡@	464.20	...	+1.90	3.18
UK Growth Inc ‡@	244.50	...	+1.00	3.26

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MNGRS LTD
0141 248 6100

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Inc	1777.00	1873.48	+4.40	0.78
Far Eastern Inc	584.69	617.09	-0.73	...
Intl Growth Inc	380.56	400.59	+0.02	0.75
Japanese Inc	41.85	41.85	+0.43	...
Mutual European	2762.93	2908.99	-21.63	1.11
Mutual Far Eastern	904.12	954.22	+3.09	...
Mutual North Am	1983.00	2092.88	+6.23	0.24
Mutual UK Eq	1419.40	1428.80	-10.35	2.59
Nth American Inc	1227.65	1295.67	-7.28	...
UK Equity Inc	562.23	593.38	+1.31	1.56

SCOTTISH WIDOWS UNIT TRUST MGRS
0845 300 2244
Authorised Inv Funds (OEICs)
OEIC A Class
Managed Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bal Port A Acc ‡@	237.60	...	+0.80	0.01
Caut Port A Acc ‡@	207.10	...	+0.30	0.43
Caut Port A Inc ‡@	152.00	...	+0.30	0.60
Opps Port A Acc ‡@	280.20	...	+1.30	...
Prog Port A Acc ‡@	266.60	...	+1.10	...

Overseas Growth Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Eur Sel Gth A Acc ‡@	3614.00	...	+12.00	2.03

Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Trkr A Acc ‡@	396.10	...	+0.70	2.91
UK Trkr A Inc ‡@	196.20	...	+0.30	2.98

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bond A Acc ‡@	279.50	...	-0.40	2.49
Corp Bond A Inc ‡@	102.90	...	-0.20	2.52
Envir Invtr A Acc ‡@	392.90	...	+2.00	1.73
Hi Inc Bond A Ac ‡@	230.60	...	+0.20	...
Hi Inc Bond A Inc ‡@	67.60	...	+0.06	...
Hi Res A Acc ‡@	384.70	...	...	3.66
Hi Res A Inc ‡@	119.40	...	+0.10	3.74
Safety Plus A Acc ‡@	40.49	...	...	...
Strat Inc A Acc ‡@	185.80	...	-0.20	3.54
Strat Inc A Inc ‡@	80.94	...	-0.06	3.61
UK Gwth A Acc ‡@	199.70	...	-1.20	...
UK Sel Gwth A Acc ‡@	2391.00	...	+2.00	...

OEIC B Class
Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Trkr B Acc ‡@	437.40	...	+0.70	3.00
UK Trkr B Inc ‡@	195.00	...	+0.30	3.08

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bond B Acc ‡@	370.70	...	+0.90	1.39
Corp Bond B Inc ‡@	136.30	...	+0.30	1.40
UK Gwth B Acc ‡@	205.60	...	-0.30	1.79
UK Sel Gwth B Acc ‡@	2481.00	...	...	1.09

OEIC C Class
UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Gth C Inc ‡@	128.90	...	-0.70	3.27
UK Sel Gwth C Acc ‡@	2598.00	...	...	1.29

STANDARD LIFE INVESTMENTS
0845 279 3003
Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Shares

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AAA Inc CAT Acc ‡@	88.09	...	+0.02	1.38
AAA Inc CAT Inc ‡@	49.40	...	+0.01	1.39
AAA Income Acc ‡@	96.02	...	+0.03	1.79
Amer Eq Gth Acc ‡@	204.30	...	-1.20	...
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	153.60	...	+0.20	3.24
Corp Bond Inc ‡@	51.01	...	+0.09	3.31
Euro Eq Gth Acc ‡@	262.10	...	+3.90	...
Glb Advtg CAT Acc ‡@	149.30	...	-0.10	1.38
Glob Advtg Acc ‡@	197.10	...	-0.20	1.35
Glob Eq Uncstrd Acc ‡@	162.40	...	-0.30	...
Higher Inc Acc ‡@	145.40	...	+0.10	4.40
Higher Inc Inc ‡@	44.83	...	+0.05	4.53
Japan Eq Gth Acc ‡@	127.40	...	...	...
Managed Acc ‡@	369.30	...	-0.10	0.69
Select Inc Acc ‡@	91.51	...	...	...
Select Inc Inc ‡@	51.26	...	-0.26	...
UK Eq Gth Acc ‡@	372.70	...	+1.70	...
UK Eq Hi Alpha ‡@	230.00	...	+1.00	...
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc ‡@	271.10	...	-0.10	4.49
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc ‡@	73.37	...	-0.02	4.65
UK Ethical Acc ‡@	207.00	...	...	2.22
UK Opps Acc ‡@	234.40	...	...	...
UK Opps Inc ‡@	211.70	...	...	...
UK Smlr Cos Acc ‡@	762.00	...	+1.80	0.66

SVS BROWN SHIPLEY FUNDS
Enquiries:0141 222 1151

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced A Acc ‡@	134.71	...	-0.02	1.25
Balanced A Inc ‡@	119.76	...	-0.03	1.26
Cautious A Acc ‡@	111.36	...	...	1.81
Cautious A Inc ‡@	95.86	...	-0.01	1.83
Dynamic A Acc ‡@	329.93	...	-0.19	0.91
Dynamic A Inc ‡@	296.03	...	-0.17	0.91
Growth A Acc ‡@	339.09	...	-0.19	1.09
Income A Acc ‡@	246.37	...	-0.02	...
Sterling Bond Acc ‡@	242.37	...	-0.28	3.52
Sterling Bond Inc ‡@	97.00	...	-0.11	3.61

THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS
Client Serv: 0800 0683000
Intermediary Serv: 0800 0684000
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (500000 GBP)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Threadneedle UK Eq Opps Ins Inc ‡@	130.37	...	+0.23	1.50

Retail Shares (Class 1)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Threadneedle HY Bd Rtl Inc ‡@	36.42	...	+0.04	...
Threadneedle Mthly Etr Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	79.42	...	+0.10	3.55
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Ins Inc ‡@	52.92	...	+0.09	2.57
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Rtl Inc ‡@	52.81	...	+0.08	2.23
Threadneedle Stg Bd Ret Inc ‡@	42.84	...	+0.08	2.46
Threadneedle Strat Bd Ret ‡@	40.42	...	+0.04	3.65
Threadneedle UK Eq Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	101.44	...	-0.01	3.40
Threadneedle UK Growth & Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	94.32	...	+0.16	2.72
Threadneedle UK Insti Rtl ‡@	185.52	...	-0.25	1.83
Threadneedle UK Mthly Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	69.64	...	+0.04	4.12
Threadneedle UK Rtl Inc ‡@	140.36	...	-0.07	1.43
Threadneedle UK Smaller Coms Rtl Inc ‡@	357.86	...	+0.80	...

For Resolution see Ignis

TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
British	966.10	966.10	+0.10	...
European	210.70	219.40	+1.00	...

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡Middle price; . . . No significant data. # Periodic charge deducted from capital; @ Exit charge

British funds

Index-linked

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/−	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
389.95	359.04	Tr IL 2½% 24 *	374.62	-.16	1.45	1.54
109.93	99.23	Tr IL 0⅛% 24	99.23	-.06	...	1.06
114.15	96.90	Tr IL 0⅛% 26	98.42	-.21	...	0.69
124.91	99.85	Tr IL 1¼% 27	103.45	-.27	1.32	0.47
119.45	93.33	Tr IL 0⅛% 28	98.24	-.25	...	0.47
120.23	92.36	Tr IL 0⅛% 29	97.79	-.27	...	0.51
378.34	301.39	Tr IL 4⅛% 30 *	335.57	-.69	1.92	0.52
125.96	90.61	Tr IL 0⅛% 31	98.02	-.26	...	0.37
141.12	99.08	Tr IL 1¼% 32	107.40	-.32	1.16	0.45
137.22	92.56	Tr IL 0¾% 34	101.42	-.37	...	0.61
289.48	206.76	Tr IL 2% 35 *	238.04	-.79	1.02	0.72
133.35	82.01	Tr IL 0⅛% 36	92.19	-.37	...	0.73
153.12	94.08	Tr IL 1⅛% 37	104.59	-.41	1.13	0.79
136.12	78.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 39	88.69	-.40	...	0.89
148.00	84.60	Tr IL 0⅝% 40	95.49	-.43	...	0.91
140.37	75.20	Tr IL 0⅛% 41	86.32	-.46	...	0.94
154.15	82.66	Tr IL 0⅝% 42	93.92	-.48	0.67	0.97
142.18	72.26	Tr IL 0⅛% 44	82.78	-.47	...	1.05
144.56	70.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 46	80.60	-.46	...	1.09
166.52	80.78	Tr IL 0¾% 47	92.61	-.50	0.83	1.09
148.03	66.79	Tr IL 0⅛% 48	78.67	-.47	...	1.10
163.30	72.64	Tr IL 0½% 50	86.33	-.44	...	1.09
157.56	65.69	Tr IL 0¼% 52	79.83	-.43	...	1.06
206.03	88.77	Tr IL 1¼% 55	105.88	-.62	1.30	1.04
159.33	60.50	Tr IL 0⅛% 56	74.71	-.44	...	1.02
161.61	60.14	Tr IL 0⅛% 58	74.08	-.40	...	1.01
180.69	64.93	Tr IL 0⅜% 62	80.82	-.41	...	0.97
177.93	55.87	Tr IL 0⅛% 65	72.48	-.41	...	0.91
186.51	54.65	Tr IL 0⅛% 68	71.97	-.41	...	0.88
206.81	55.40	Tr IL 0⅛% 73	75.14	-.53	...	0.72

Longs (Over 15 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/−	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
151.63	63.35	Tr 0⅛% 51	77.14	-.39	...	1.08
81.53	44.40	Tr 1¼% 51	49.39	-.26	...	4.40
137.12	82.51	Tr 3¾% 52	89.00	-.37	...	4.42
87.22	46.78	Tr 1½% 53	51.83	-.27	...	4.40
89.90	48.25	Tr 1⅝% 54	53.21	-.28	...	4.38
153.54	90.79	Tr 4¼% 55	97.52	-.42	4.36	4.39
93.43	49.39	Tr 1¾% 57	54.26	-.27	...	4.33
153.51	87.32	Tr 4% 60	93.84	-.40	...	4.34
60.51	26.21	Tr 0½% 61	29.97	-.20	...	4.18
116.70	60.88	Tr 2½% 65	65.58	-.33	...	4.27
147.98	79.01	Tr 3½% 68	84.61	-.40	...	4.27
92.13	42.99	Tr 1⅝% 71	47.42	-.26	...	4.16
76.68	32.96	Tr 1⅛% 73	37.10	-.22	...	4.07
103.74	88.54	Tr 3¾% 53	88.54	-.37	...	4.44
136.95	98.36	Tr 4¾% 38	104.97	-.36	4.53	4.31
85.84	58.05	Tr 1⅛% 39	63.64	-.23	...	4.35
130.74	92.08	Tr 4¼% 39	98.84	-.33	4.30	4.35
132.19	91.30	Tr 4¼% 40	98.47	-.33	...	4.38
85.87	54.72	Tr 1¼% 41	60.78	-.26	...	4.37
118.78	76.78	Tr 3¼% 44	84.00	-.30	...	4.44
139.05	93.79	Tr 4½% 42	101.36	-.37	4.44	4.40
123.83	79.61	Tr 3½% 45	86.83	-.32	...	4.45
139.90	89.35	Tr 4¼% 46	97.02	-.37	4.38	4.46
76.59	43.93	Tr 0⅞% 46	49.42	-.24	...	4.43
87.70	51.06	Tr 1½% 47	56.65	-.26	...	4.44
92.57	53.78	Tr 1¾% 49	59.16	-.27	...	4.43
144.08	89.75	Tr 4¼% 49	96.88	-.38	4.39	4.45
69.00	35.82	Tr 0⅝% 50	40.42	-.23	...	4.38

Mediums (5-15 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/−	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
103.82	97.21	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	99.64	-.23	...	4.23
98.68	85.65	Tr 1¼% 27	89.71	-.24	...	3.95
114.02	98.23	Tr 4¼% 27	101.11	-.28	4.20	3.98
92.68	79.15	Tr 0⅛% 28	83.79	-.23	...	3.95
100.63	84.72	Tr 1⅝% 28	89.04	-.28	...	3.89
94.88	84.28	Tr 0⅜% 26	88.15	-.19	...	4.13
100.06	89.28	Tr 1½% 26	92.59	-.20	...	4.02
127.06	107.13	Tr 6% 28	110.12	-.34	5.45	3.95
92.99	77.61	Tr 0½% 29	82.28	-.21	...	4.01
95.06	78.21	Tr 0⅞% 29	83.12	-.23	...	3.87
90.09	72.39	Tr 0⅜% 30	77.42	-.21	...	3.91
124.13	101.89	Tr 4¾% 30	105.51	-.26	4.50	3.90
87.42	69.25	Tr 0¼% 31	74.30	-.22	...	3.95
92.63	73.06	Tr 1% 32	78.23	-.24	...	3.99
122.11	98.13	Tr 4¼% 32	102.37	-.29	4.15	3.94
101.14	93.62	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	93.62	-.33	...	4.05
89.47	68.57	Tr 0⅞% 33	73.53	-.26	...	4.07
127.13	98.89	Tr 4½% 34	103.48	-.33	4.35	4.11
83.22	61.24	Tr 0⅝% 35	66.38	-.28	...	4.17
126.08	94.91	Tr 4¼% 36	100.58	-.34	4.23	4.19
95.14	67.54	Tr 1¾% 37	73.07	-.28	...	4.29
104.43	...	Tr 3¾% 38	93.71	-.34	...	4.33

Shorts (under 5 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/−	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
101.69	93.15	Tr 2% 25	95.37	-.15	...	4.14
100.88	97.90	Tr 3½% 25	97.90	-.18	...	4.43
95.25	86.33	Tr 0⅛% 26	90.24	-.16	...	3.99
97.62	90.15	Tr 0⅝% 25	93.39	-.13	...	4.03
109.47	100.77	Tr 5% 25	101.18	-.13	4.94	4.30
96.63	90.04	Tr 0¼% 25	93.24	-.09	...	4.45
102.84	96.82	Tr 2¾% 24	98.01	-.04	...	4.35
99.42	97.34	Tr 0¾% 23	99.42	+.01	...	4.16
101.03	98.04	Tr 2¼% 23	99.38	+ ...	...	4.35
97.80	94.34	Tr 0⅛% 24	97.15	-.01	...	4.37
99.23	94.79	Tr 1% 24	96.96	-.01	...	4.45

* maturities having an eight-month indexation lag.

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Dechra dogged by slowdown in earnings during takeover talks

Helen Cahill

Dechra Pharmaceuticals has warned that its annual earnings will be less than expected, as it negotiates a £4.6 billion takeover deal with a Swedish private equity firm.

The veterinary drugs maker told investors that its profits faced a "material impact" from US wholesalers holding less inventory and that it had seen a similar pattern of destocking in Britain.

The FTSE 250 group said there had been "encouraging signs" of a sales rebound in America but that the European market "appears to be slowing" due to the uncertain economic outlook. Dechra's board expects to deliver underlying operating profit of less than the previous guidance of £186 million.

Shares in Dechra closed down 476p, or 13 per cent, at £31.74 after the unscheduled announcement. EQT has offered £40.70 per share for the company.

Dechra revealed last month that Sweden's EQT had made a bid for the group in a deal backed by the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. The news came as private equity investors revealed a number of bids for London-listed companies including John Wood Group, Hyve and THG.

EQT manages assets worth €210 billion and has also invested in IVC Evidensia, the largest veterinary care provider in Europe.

Dechra, which is based in Cheshire, develops and markets veterinary products from eight manufacturing sites. The company has grown by pursuing bolt-on acquisitions under its chief executive, Ian Page, 61, and employs about 2,300 staff. The company said it "remains in discussion" about the deal with EQT.

"The board is confident that the group remains very well positioned to continue to grow over the medium and longer term despite the unprecedented and, by nature, short term trading headwinds," it said.

"The fundamentals of the business and strategy remain strong, our underlying markets remain in structural growth, we continue to grow in our chosen markets and we have an established, highly experienced and focused management team."

Jefferies analysts calculated that Dechra's earnings could be facing a £180 million impact from US wholesalers destocking. But they said the financial impact should even out in the next financial period because it was just a "timing issue". They said: "[We] would expect the business to normalise when restocking occurs, thus it doesn't change our view of fundamental prospects. The item in our view that is harder to quantify is Europe."

European markets made up about half of Dechra's revenues in its 2022 financial year, although the company's revenue mix has fallen since it acquired Med-Pharmex in August last year for $260 million. Med-Pharmex is a veterinary pharmaceutical manufacturer based in California.

Max Herrmann, healthcare analyst at Stifel, said: "Clearly, this is disappointing news and increases the risk that EQT may lower its offer price or walk away from the deal. However, EQT's interest in Dechra was always based on the long-term potential for Dechra that has not changed. Hence, we still believe that discussions will lead to a firm offer for Dechra from EQT."

Dechra produced half-year sales growth of 5 per cent and said that its financial performance would be more heavily weighted to the second half of the year. The company has benefited from an increasing demand for animal healthcare after the pandemic and was at one point listed on the FTSE 100.

GETTY IMAGES



The veterinary drugs maker warns that profits will be lower than expected because wholesalers are reducing inventory

Green energy could restart network after blackout

Emily Gosden

Britain's power network could be safely restarted using only renewables in the unlikely event of a catastrophic blackout in the future, according to a trial of new technology by Scottish Power.

Like most countries, Britain's National Grid has traditionally relied on coal and gas-fired power plants to provide "black start" capability — the process of recovering from the full or partial shutdown of the electricity transmission network. Supply and demand on the power network has to be balanced to keep the grid running safely and, during a black start, power plants and consumers have to be brought back onto the grid gradually in tandem.

This becomes trickier as big old fossil fuel plants close and are replaced with myriad greener but smaller and more intermittent power sources such as wind and solar, because their output is less predictable.

Scottish Power, which operates part of the transmission grid in Scotland, has completed a £4.4 million Ofgem-funded trial in Dumfries and Galloway in conjunction with Drax and GE to show that black start can be achieved using hydro-electric and wind power. The companies installed technology to improve monitoring and control of wind turbine output and now want to see this introduced elsewhere in the country.

Scott Mathieson, network planning and regulation director at Scottish Power's energy networks division, said: "This successful electricity system restoration marks a significant milestone not just for SP Energy Networks, but for the UK's entire electricity network. It is a massive leap forward in innovation and the use of novel wide area monitoring, protection and control technology.

"Providing grid stability and services from renewables is one of the greatest challenges facing network operators today. Our trial shows it can be done."

Britain has never needed to black start its power network but incidents in North America and Italy in 2003 left tens of millions without power.

Chevron adds to fracking reserves with $6.3bn deal

Emily Gosden Energy Editor

Chevron, the US-based oil and gas giant, is doubling down on fracking in America with a $6.3 billion takeover of PDC Energy.

The all-share deal will increase Chevron's proven oil and gas reserves by 10 per cent, giving it 275,000 acres adjacent to Chevron's shale assets in the Denver-Julesburg (DJ) basin in Colorado and 25,000 acres in the Permian basin in Texas.

Mike Wirth, Chevron chief executive, said: "PDC's attractive and complementary assets strengthen Chevron's position in key US production basins."

PDC Energy was founded in 1969 and is based in Denver. It produced the equivalent of 233,000 barrels of oil a day last year and reported net income of $1.8 billion.

Chevron, worth more than $290 billion, reported net income of $35.5 billion last year and produced the equivalent of three million barrels of oil a day globally, more than a third of which was in America from fracking onshore and fields offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. Fracking is the process used to release oil and gas from shale formations by hydraulically fracturing the rock.

PDC shareholders will receive just over 0.46 Chevron shares for every PDC share, valuing PDC shares at $72 each, a 14 per cent premium to the ten-day average share price. Including debt, the enterprise value of the deal is $7.6 billion.

Chevron said the acquisition was expected to boost its annual free cashflow by $1 billion, based on forecast 2024 prices, and would increase its annual capital expenditure by about $1 billion, to between $14 billion and $16 billion. It said it expected to deliver cost synergies of about $100 million pre-tax within a year of completion, expected by the end of this year, subject to approval by PDC shareholders.

Alastair Syme, an analyst at Citi, said: "That Chevron is using premium-valued paper for a bolt-on acquisition in US energy should not really be a surprise. Perhaps more unexpected is that the acquisition is in the DJ basin, a shale basin that tends to fall under the radar versus its higher-profile neighbours."

He said the deal "further increases Chevron's exposure to the US, a pathway the company has now been on for several years". More than 30 per cent of its cashflow would now be generated from US shale and, including the Gulf of Mexico and refining and marketing operations, Chevron "should be considered roughly 50 per cent a US company".

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Daniel Liberto **Tempus**

Buy, sell or hold: today's best share tips



A word to the wise: be wary of rivals

WISE

Market cap	Active customers
£6 billion	6.1m

Wise offers a service that's widely appreciated, in increasing demand, profitable and better than the competition. In many ways, it ticks all the right boxes.

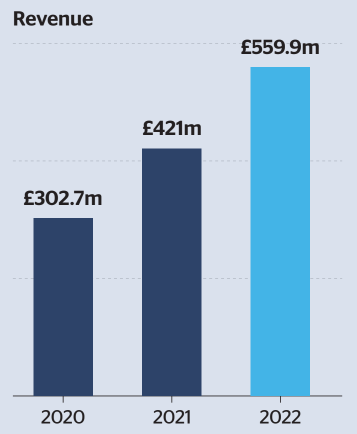
The share price, however, tells a different story. The money transfer platform is worth about 25 per cent less than when it debuted on the London Stock Exchange in 2021. This underperformance serves as a reminder that IPO valuations are often too frothy and that investing in growth stocks can be a bumpy ride.

Wise's main selling point has always been making it quicker, more transparent and cheaper for people and businesses to move money around the world. An obsession with keeping prices as low as possible has won it lots of business and scared investors, some of which are worried about an over-reliance on consistently increasing volumes to drive growth. It has also refuelled the old debate that what's great for punters isn't always great for shareholders.

Another source of anxiety is competition. When disruptors step on to the scene with a great idea, it's likely that others will follow suit and that the big boys whose lunch is getting eaten will fight back. That, on top of a lofty rating characteristic of companies with high growth prospects, explains why the slightest hint of a setback, such as a recent fall in average transaction sizes per customer, makes investors so jittery.

Switched-on





ADVICE Hold
WHY Wise has a lot going for it but competition is a real threat

Some of these fears appear to be exaggerated. A dip in big ticket transactions in today's economic environment shouldn't be so alarming. Wise, despite all the noise, isn't about to eradicate all fees. Management knows it has shareholders to please and has pledged to maintain an adjusted cash profit margin of at least 20 per cent, which isn't too shabby and should keep all parties happy. Competition is a more credible threat. Wise's 12 years in the game have given it the infrastructure to send funds quickly and cheaply while generating decent profits. The small handful that compete on price are generally slower, less highly rated or losing money. They do exist, though, and are growing in number, which could be a problem.

Big banks are less menacing. They earn the majority of their revenues from lending and are unlikely to bother revolutionising how they do business at a great expense for what to them is small potatoes. Some of them have decided to join forces instead, using a white-label money transfer service provided by Wise.

That's just one of many potential revenue drivers. It feels that Wise has been around for ages, yet high street banks, who tend to charge at least 4 per cent more to transfer money, still dominate the market. In Asia Pacific, North America and the small businesses sector, markets that all represent much bigger growth opportunities, the company is just getting started.

The golden question is whether Wise can deliver on all this promise, particularly with so many rivals nipping at its heels, and whether the current price reflects this. The fact that it is established, profitable and has few directly comparable listed peers means the best way to value the money transfer group is against itself. It scores well in that regard, trading at about half its usual price to forecast earnings and 40 per cent less than its customary total enterprise value to future ebitda.

Wise's stellar track record and growth potential make it a tempting proposition at this price. But it's hard to ignore the risk that the opportunities baked into the shares could be gobbled up by someone else. There's little loyalty in the money transfer business. If something cheaper and better comes along, customers probably won't have any problem jumping ship. Unless you are feeling particularly confident, it might be wise to stay neutral.

MOONPIG

Revenue	Adjusted ebitda margin
£304 million	24.6%

Moonpig's first few years as a public company have been a rollercoaster. The online card and gift retailer listed in February 2021 when high streets were shut by the pandemic and internet sales were booming. Everything has pretty much gone downhill since.

The company is worth about 60 per cent less than its floating price and yet remains one of London's most shorted stocks. That is a real slap in the face and has left the shares trading at 12 times forward earnings, significantly less than the multiple of 42 that was recorded at the time of the retailer's initial public offering.

Moonpig is essentially a play on the British and Dutch penchant for sending greetings cards and the shift to buying them online. When customers place orders, their data is collected and used to encourage repeat purchases and sell them relevant gifts to go with their cards. This business model appears to be working and enables Moonpig to leverage its costs and boost revenues and margins.

Management is confident that a continuing trend towards online sales, where the company controls 70 per cent of the market, coupled with its unique range of cards that can be personalised, customer pull and gift upselling, will deliver plenty of growth for years to come.

The current medium-term goal for Moonpig is for underlying revenues to grow in the mid-teen percentages and for adjusted ebitda margins to rise slightly to between 25 and 26 per cent.

Those are nice targets but investors will need greater reassurances that they can be met, particularly given the state of the economy and the fact that bricks and mortar competitors are getting better at selling cards online.

Moonpig, a renowned big spender, has promised to prioritise profitability over chasing growth in the near-term and to focus on flogging more of its value gift range.

However, a bigger catalyst is needed to restore the faith and move the shares back in the right direction and it's hard to see where that will come from, at least for the time being.

ADVICE Hold
WHY Moonpig has a decent game plan but it could take a while to flourish

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chase attracts £15bn

JPMorgan's UK retail bank has attracted £15 billion in deposits from more than 1.6 million customers since its launch in September 2021. The US bank is trying to shake up the British market with Chase. JPMorgan also bought Nutmeg, the digital wealth manager, in 2021 and is incorporating the business on its Chase platform. Sanjiv Somani, UK chief executive of Chase, said: "Our intention is to offer a full suite of banking products over time – including fully integrating the Nutmeg investment products into the Chase app."

Hundreds in City strike

More than 250 members of Unite will join a strike on Thursday to demand a pay rise at the City of London Corporation, the union said. Last week the GMB union said 900 members who work at the corporation would walk out that day for 24 hours. Unite members have roles in security, police staff, grounds maintenance and administration. The GMB said its members could force the closure of attractions including Tower Bridge and the Barbican Centre.

TikTok sues over ban

TikTok has filed a federal lawsuit against Montana, the first US state to ban the Chinese-owned social media app. The ban, which takes effect next year and will force Apple and Google to remove TikTok from their app stores, "abridges freedom of speech in violation of the First Amendment", the lawsuit said. The governor of Montana, Greg Gianforte, said it "will protect Montanans' private data … from being harvested by the Chinese Communist Party".

PacWest's loans sale

The California-based lender PacWest Bancorp agreed to sell a batch of 74 property construction loans to focus on its core business. Shares in PacWest — which have been in sharp focus after the collapse of several regional banks — rallied by 20.8 per cent, or $1.19, to $6.92. The portfolio, with an aggregate principal outstanding balance of about $2.6 billion, is set to be acquired by a unit of Kennedy-Wilson Holdings, a property investment business.

PRICES

Major indices

New York	
Dow Jones	33286.58 (-140.05)
Nasdaq Composite	12720.78 (+62.88)
S&P 500	4192.63 (+0.65)
Tokyo	
Nikkei 225	31086.82 (+278.47)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	19678.17 (+227.60)
Amsterdam	
AEX Index	767.61 (+0.51)
Sydney	
AO	7450.70 (-20.80)
Frankfurt	
DAX	16223.99 (-51.39)
Singapore	
Straits	3211.09 (+8.50)
Brussels	
BEL20	3736.57 (-0.21)
Paris	
CAC-40	7478.16 (-13.80)
Zurich	
SMI Index	11553.23 (-17.93)
DJ Euro Stoxx 50	4385.63 (-9.67)
London	
FTSE 100	7770.99 (+14.12)
FTSE 250	19273.34 (-15.76)
FTSE 350	4278.13 (+6.19)
FTSE Eurotop 100	3690.89 (-2.71)
FTSE All-Shares	4234.14 (+5.89)
FTSE Non Financials	5135.42 (-0.55)
techMARK 100	6982.31 (-3.76)
Bargains	n/a
US$	1.2439 (-0.0021)
Euro	1.1498 (-0.0014)
£:SDR	0.98 (+0.00)
Exchange Index	80.19 (+0.06)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
CPI	128.87 Mar (2015 = 100)
RPI	367.20 Mar (Jan 1987 = 100)
RPIX	290.10 Jun (Jan 1987 = 100)
Morningstar Long Commodity	677.16 (+5.72)
Morningstar Long/Short Commod	4703.45 (+27.75)

London Financial Futures

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Jun 23	98.550	98.980	97.940	98.080	191815	514451
	SEP 23	98.600	98.800	97.820	97.930	12497	1978
3-Mth Sterling	Jun 23						
	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
3-Mth Euribor	Jun 23	96.415	96.425	96.410	96.410	79643	542710
	Sep 23	96.165	96.205	96.160	96.170	116341	591966
	Dec 23	96.255	96.290	96.235	96.245	111107	374332
	Mar 24	96.435	96.485	96.420	96.435	98836	347149
	Jun 24	96.670	96.725	96.640	96.660	71898	301133
3-Mth Euroswiss	Jun 23						
	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
FTSE100	Jun 23	7782.0	7794.5	7758.5	7783.0	68196	599115
	Sep 23	7792.0	7804.0	7792.0	7794.5	9	3161
FTSEurofirst 80	Jun 23				5897.0		
	Sep 23				5940.0		

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Commodities

ICIS pricing (London 7.30pm)

Crude Oils ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	76.13	+0.56
BFOE(Jul)	76.03	+0.41
BFOE(Aug)	75.92	+0.40
WTI(Jul)	71.99	+0.30
WTI(Aug)	72.05	+0.46

Products ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Unld	857.00	860.00	+2.00
Gasoil EEC	687.00	688.00	-6.25
3.5 Fuel Oil	401.00	401.00	-3.50
Naphtha	579.00	593.00	+2.00

ICE Futures

Gas Oil

Jun	683.00-682.50	Sep	680.50-680.00
Jul	679.00-678.75	Oct	683.25-682.75
Aug	678.50-678.00		Volume: 605392

Brent (9.00pm)

Jul	75.93-75.91	Oct	75.14-75.11
Aug	75.79-75.78	Nov	74.78-74.76
Sep	75.50-75.48		Volume: 1844749

LIFFE

Cocoa

Jul	2370-2369	Sep	2119-2055
Sep	2329-2325	Dec	2102-2097
Dec	2263-2257	Mar	2051-2070
Mar	2200-2191		
May	2165-2143		
Jul	2135-2080		Volume: 73987

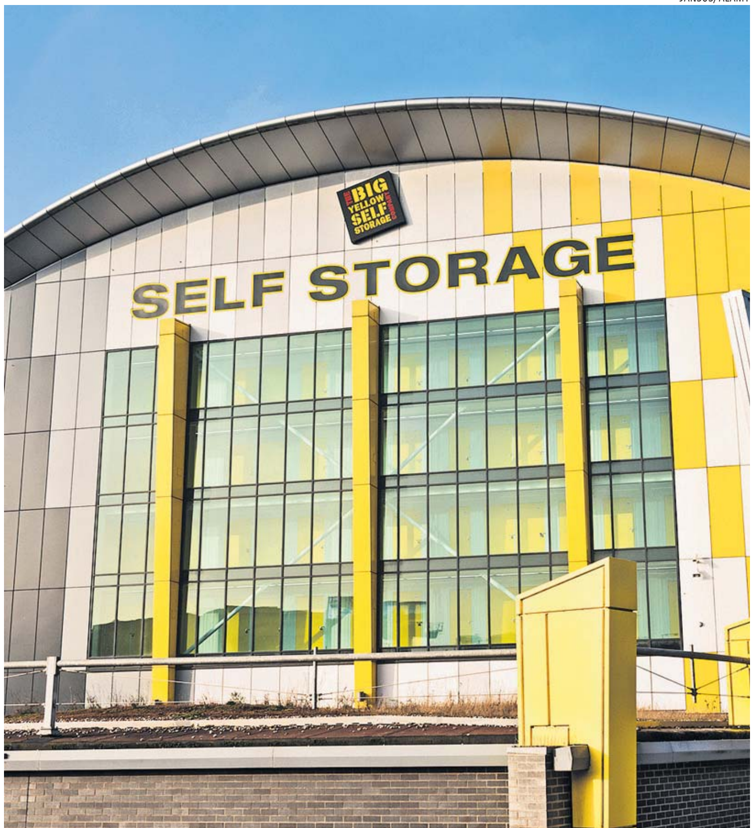
RobustaCoffee

May	2693-2700	Jan	2490-2350
Jul	2634-2632	Mar	2440-2100
Sep	2576-2565		
Nov	2532-2470		Volume: 18510

White Sugar (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	678.80-676.70
		May	659.80-657.00
Aug	712.60-712.30	Aug	635.50-619.00
Oct	702.80-696.90	Oct	611.30-603.00
Dec	689.50-688.30		Volume: 62316

JANSOS/ALAMY



U-turn hope on tax-free shopping boosts retailers



Dominic Walsh *Market report*

Investors went on a shopping spree for leading retail stocks amid growing hopes that the government may reverse its decision to axe tax-free shopping.

Shares of JD Sports Fashion, Burberry Group and Watches of Switzerland all ticked along nicely as fresh pressure was brought to bear by the retail and hospitality sectors to restore the scheme, under which visitors from non-European Union countries were able to recover the VAT on purchases.

Jonathan Akeroyd, the boss of Burberry, warned last week that the lack of tax-free shopping for overseas tourists was making Britain less competitive. He said visitors had been returning to Paris, Milan and Barcelona in greater numbers than London, putting the UK at a competitive disadvantage.

Burberry, famous for its luxury trenchcoats and house tartan, gained 41p, or 1.8 per cent, to £23.31, while **JD Sports** jogged 1¼p higher to 160½p, up 0.7 per cent. **Watches of Switzerland**, which stocks prestigious brands such as Rolex, Breitling and Tag Heuer, was given an added shove by bid speculation. The company, floated at 270p four years ago, was previously owned by Apollo Global Management, and the rumoured suitors are said to include private equity firms as well as French luxury goods groups. The shares, down a quarter over the past year, added 28½p, or 4.3 per cent, to 689½p.

It was one of those days when the two main indices ended up going in opposite directions. The FTSE 100 strode 14.12 points higher to 7,770.99 points, a rise of 0.18 per cent as talks continued between President Biden and the Republican House Speaker, Kevin McCarthy, over the raising of the US debt ceiling. There is optimism about a solution but markets remain jittery.

The more domestically focused FTSE 250, having spent much of the session in positive territory, closed the day down 15.76 points, or 0.08 per cent, to 19,273.34 points.

In retail, Mike Ashley's **Frasers Group** was the FTSE 100's top of the flops, shedding 17p, or 2.2 per cent, to 748½p. In leisure, **The Restaurant Group** gained 1½p, or 3.3 per cent, to 49¾p, amid hopes that further demands for asset sales from rebellious shareholders might gain some traction. At today's annual meeting, investors in the Wagamama and Frankie & Benny's operator will have their say.

Kainos, an IT group, was flying after announcing slightly better than expected full-year results. The shares jumped by 75p, or 6.1 per cent, to £12.99.

Zinc Media was in demand after the television and audio production group announced a contract to make a series for the BBC and its Canadian equivalent on the exploitation of black artists by the music industry. Idris and Sabrina Elba are executive producers, which helped push the shares 7½p, or 7.1 per cent, higher to 112½p.

The biggest FTSE 250 faller was **Dechra Pharmaceuticals**, the veterinary drugs group, which despite being in talks with EQT, the Swedish private equity firm, suffered a 476p slump to £31.74 —a fall of 13 per cent — on the back of its third profit warning in three months.

Asos, in which Frasers Group has built a 7.4 per cent stake, was down 2½p, or 0.6 per cent, to 443½p, despite continuing rumblings of corporate action in the offing. One of the companies said to be circling is Turkish, but until now it has not been named. The Times understands it is Trendyol, a Turkish ecommerce company that was founded in 2010 and which is 86.5 per cent owned by Alibaba, the Chinese Amazon.

Wall Street report

It was a mixed session on Wall Street as investors were cautious ahead of a fresh round of talks about raising the US debt ceiling. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 0.4 per cent to 33,286.58, while the S&P 500 was broadly flat at 4,192.63.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Sanctions tarnish Polymetal

Polymetal's efforts to play down the impact of US sanctions on its operations failed when almost a fifth was wiped off the value off the goldminer's shares yesterday.

On Friday the US State Department included the London-listed group's Russian business, JSC Polymetal, and Polyus — the largest gold producers in Russia — on its latest list of sanctions targets, aiming to punish Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine.

The former FTSE 100 constituent, with assets in Kazakhstan and Russia, tried to allay the City's concerns by saying the restrictions did not affect its business outside Russia. The Russian operations accounted for two thirds of group revenue last year.

"JSC Polymetal is a legal entity registered in the Russian Federation which acts, amongst other things, as the holding company for the group's assets in the Russian Federation," the company said, adding that "JSC Polymetal does not have any operations outside of the Russian Federation".

Investors were not convinced. The shares, which fell more than 8 per cent on Friday, dropped by up to 40 per cent yesterday before closing down 41p, or 17.7 per cent, at 189p.



Russian operations made up two thirds of revenue last year

Profits at Big Yellow drop by 89%

Shares in Big Yellow will be in focus this morning after the storage company reported an 89 per cent drop in pre-tax profit for the year that ended on March 31 (Jessica Newman writes).

Results released after the market closed last night revealed statutory pre-tax profit fell to £75.3 million, against £698.9 million a year before.

The company said: "There was a very significant increase in the valuation of our investment portfolio last year, and this year the valuations have remained relatively flat, with an increase of 1 per cent on the open store portfolio."

The overall value of its portfolio fell by £30 million as a result of a £57.5 million reduction in its industrial property and land without self storage planning in the development pipeline, "reflective of the new financing conditions and wider market environment for land".

Occupancy at its 108 sites, dropped by 58,000 square foot, with levels relatively muted since January, as a result of the "uncertainty caused by the US regional bank crisis and customers continuing to acclimatise to a higher cost of debt environment".

Revenue grew 10 per cent to £188.8 million, up from £171.3 million, thanks to a shift in its pricing models that it said had "successfully mitigated the impacts of higher inflation" and produced improved average achieved rents.

The board is recommending a final dividend of 22.9p a share, bringing its total payout to 45.2p, an 8 per cent increase on last year's payout.

The day's biggest movers

Company	Change
Wincanton Strong full-year results	6.9%
Kainos Group Full-year results ahead pf expectations	6.1%
Molten Ventures Positive broker comment	6.1%
Standard Chartered Thawing of US-China relations in prospect	3%
BT Group Positive reaction to last week's 55,000 job cuts	2%
Premier Food Fresh concerns about inflationary headwinds	-2.1%
Frasers Group Fears it will raise stake in Asos	-2.2%
Future Continuing fallout from decline in online audiences	-2.7%
Reach Read-across from Future concerns	-3.5%
Dechra Pharmaceuticals Third profit warning in three months	-13%

London Grain Futures

LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)

May	186.00	Jul	180.00	Nov	188.00
Jan	unq	Mar	unq	Volume: 761	

London Metal Exchange

(Official)

Cash	3mth	Dec 22
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)		
8093.0-8094.0	8150.5-8151.5	8240.0-8250.0
Lead ($/tonne)		
2093.0-2095.0	2084.0-2085.0	2122.0-2127.0
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)		
2432.0-2433.0	2441.0-2442.0	2457.0-2462.0
Alum Hi Gde ($/tonne)		
2261.0-2262.0	2260.0-2262.0	2418.0-2423.0
Nickel ($/tonne)		
21250.0-21275.0	21400.0-21425.0	22575.0-22625.0
Tin ($/tonne)		**15mth**
25100.0-25150.0	25025.0-25075.0	24490.0-24540.0

Gold/Precious metals (US dollars per ounce)

Because of a technical issue, the gold fix prices are from Friday.

Bullion: Open $1980.77
Close $1975.36-1975.60 **High** $1982.27
Low $1969.47
AM $1965.55 **PM** $1961.60
Krugerrand $1172.00-1244.00 (£943.15-1001.09)
Platinum $1092.00 (£878.77)
Silver $23.74 (£19.11)
Palladium $1721.11 (£1385.04)

European money deposits %

Currency	1mth	3mth	6mth	12mth
Dollar	0.13	0.20	0.29	0.55
Sterling	4.20	4.73	4.74	0.81
Euro	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.50

Money rates %

Base Rates Clearing Banks 4.50 ECB Refi 2.50 US Fed Fund 4.50-4.75

Halifax Mortgage Rate 3.99

Treasury Bills (Dis) Buy: 1 mth 4.430; 3 mth 4.586. Sell: 1 mth 4.200; 3 mth 4.400

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Interbank Rates	4.2013	0.000	4.7266	4.7447	0.00
Eurodollar Deps	5.23-5.47	5.37-5.41	5.04-5.04	4.67-4.67	3.822-3.82

Sterling spot and forward rates

Mkt Rates for	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Copenhagen	8.5537-8.5791	8.5552-8.5564	128ds	369ds
Euro	1.1520-1.1489	1.1489-1.1488	10pr	30pr
Montreal	1.6775-1.6832	1.6787-1.6788	1ds	7ds
New York	1.2414-1.2472	1.2426-1.2426	8pr	20pr
Oslo	13.510-13.573	13.548-13.551	132ds	361ds
Stockholm	13.062-13.127	13.121-13.124	222ds	602ds
Tokyo	171.20-172.54	172.05-172.06	74ds	214ds
Zurich	1.1133-1.1194	1.1160-1.1161	33ds	94ds

Premium = pr Discount = ds

Dollar rates

Australia	1.5045-1.5047
Canada	1.3510-1.3511
Denmark	6.8852-6.8859
Euro	0.9245-0.9247
Hong Kong	7.8286-7.8288
Japan	138.46-138.47
Malaysia	4.5360-4.5410
Norway	10.903-10.908
Singapore	1.3460-1.3461
Sweden	10.560-10.563
Switzerland	0.8981-0.8982

Other Sterling

Argentina peso	291.32-291.33
Australia dollar	1.8695-1.8697
Bahrain dinar	0.4650-0.4719
Brazil real	6.1576-6.1728
Euro	1.1488-1.1489
Hong Kong dollar	9.7273-9.7283
India rupee	102.95-102.96
Indonesia rupiah	18509-18509
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3807-0.3830
Malaysia ringgit	5.6330-5.6392
New Zealand dollar	1.9786-1.9790
Singapore dollar	1.6723-1.6726
S Africa rand	23.900-23.911
U A E dirham	4.5619-4.5644

Exchange rates

	Bid	Change
Australia $	1.869	
Canada $	1.678	
Denmark Kr	8.565	-0.02
Euro €	1.150	
Hong Kong $	9.722	
Hungary	430.465	-2.86
Indonesia	18492.530	-70.44
Israel Shk	4.547	+0.01
Japan Yen	172.115	-0.15
New Zealand $	1.979	
Norway Kr	13.533	+0.01
Poland	5.180	-0.06
Russia	99.480	-0.18
S Africa Rd	23.918	-0.30
Sweden Kr	13.126	
Switzerland Fr	1.117	-0.01
Turkey Lira	24.632	-0.01
USA $	1.242	

Rates supplied by Morningstar

MORNINGSTAR® Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication

Business Equity prices

Dividend yields Please note that the information in the dividend yields column has been suspended due to technical problems at Morningstar, the provider.
12-month high and low Please note the 12-month high and low figures for shares supplied by Morningstar are based on intra-day figures, not closing prices.

Automobiles & parts

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
297	89½	Aston Martin Lag	265¾	- 1½	...	-1.6

Banking & finance

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
236	133	**Abrdn**	211⅝	- ⅛	...	4.6
2361	1729	**Admiral**‡	2306	+ 57	...	11.7
71⅜	24½	ADVFN♦	24½	...	...	4.2
390	255⅛	AJ Bell	317¾	- ⅜	...	29.7
27093⅞	20028	Aon Corpn	26282⅛	- 57⅛	...	64.1
42¾	23⅝	Appreciate Group♦	42⅛	...	...	18.3
1002½	645	Arbuthnot Bkg♦‡	960	+ 32½	...	21.2
14	9	Argo Group♦	9	...	...	4.1
286⅜	180⅞	Ashmore	238½	+ 4½	...	8.1
1384½	1118¾	Aus New Z	1272½	- 9⅝	...	9.9
467⅞	373¾	**Aviva**	418½	+ 5	...	55.0
341½	193⅜	Banco Santander	280	+ 1½	...	6.6
3375	1306	Bank of Georgia	3245	- 25	...	10.0
189⅝	133⅞	**Barclays**	160	+ ⅝	...	3.8
¼	...	Blue Star Capital♦	⅛	...	...	3.2
346	277	BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦	321	...	...	8.8
14	6¾	Braveheart Inv♦	11¾	...	...	0.3
515	507	Brewin Dolphin	515	+ 1	...	28.1
337	173⅞	Bridgepoint‡	220	- ¾	...	13.7
67	35	Cenkos Secs♦	35½	- 1½	...	7.2
325	262½	Chesnara‡	286	...	...	15.8
53	9	City of Lon Gp♦	10	+ 1	...	-0.6
474	343½	City Lon Inv Gp	440	- 10	...	10.3
1148	858½	Close Bros	918	- 13	...	6.8
317	167	CMC Markets	181⅛	+ 1⅛	...	5.5
1036¾	497½	Commerzbk	871¼	+ 20⅛	...	44.6
1071	659⅛	Deutsche Bk	857¾	+ 7⅜	...	10.0
260⅜	135	Direct Line Ins	163¼	+ ¾	...	6.7
58½	57	Downing ONE VCT	57	...	...	7.7
6	...	Drumz♦	5	...	...	...
128⅞	60⅜	EFG-Hermes Hldg	64¾	- 7⅝	...	4.1
212	122½	EPE Special Opps♦	160	+ 2½	...	8.9
1230¼	810⅝	FBD	1126	...	...	5.0
72½	67½	Fiske♦	67½	...	...	12.0
78	59	Frenkel Topping♦	69½	+ 1	...	40.4
847	548	Georgia Capital	847	- 2	...	2.3
915	682	Gresham House♦‡	775	...	...	31.1
506	320	H&T Group♦‡	423	+ 1	...	13.5
52½	33	Hansard Global	47⅞	...	...	16.5
983	740¾	**Hargreaves Lansdown**	816¾	+ 5	...	14.5
174⅞	143⅜	Helios Under♦	172½	...	...	...
647½	442⅛	**HSBC**‡	617⅛	+ 6⅜	...	13.4
847½	648	IG Group	701½	- 2	...	7.1
883	500	Impax♦	825	+ 3	...	27.2
1612	953⅛	Intermed Capital	1365½	+ 40½	...	7.8
114	64⅜	IPF	110	+ 3½	...	6.1
170	136	International Public P'ship‡	140	- ¾	...	17.9
546⅜	351½	Investec	444½	+ 5½	...	11.1
330	253	Investment Co	330	+ 5	...	11.8
88	52½	IP Group	57⅜	+ 1	...	2.1
230	94	Jarvis Securities♦‡	155	...	...	11.1
179½	83¾	Jupiter Fund Mgmt	117¾	- 2	...	4.3
95¼	55⅞	Just Group	91½	- 2	...	...
664	368½	Lancashire Holdings‡	624½	- 8½	...	...
284¼	204	**Legal & Gen**‡	236½	+ 1⅜	...	7.2
...	...	Liberty Group	502⅝	- 2⅝	...	...
1290	704	Liontrust	796½	- 19½	...	9.9
55¼	38	Livermore Invs♦	39½	- 1½	...	2.5
53⅞	39	**Lloyds Banking Group**‡	46⅞	+ ⅛	...	6.5
34⅛	22	LMS Capital	24¼	+ 1	...	10.5
8582	6738	**Lond Stk Ex Gp**‡	8472	+ 36	...	86.6
222⅛	159⅞	**M&G**	201	...	...	62.8
286¾	204¼	Man	225	+ 7	...	9.0
29	8	Manx Fin♦	24½	...	...	12.4
3	1	Marechale Cap♦	1⅜	...	...	0.7
14635⅜	11633⅛	Marsh McLn	14457⅛	- 79⅝	...	30.1
745	530	Mattioli Woods♦	640	...	...	...
19½	7½	Metal Tiger♦	9	+ ¾	...	3.5
153⅛	69	Metro Bank	104¼	+ ¼	...	-0.7
1744¾	1381⅜	Nat Aust Bk	1421¼	- 12¼	...	14.1
309⅞	212⅜	**NatWest**	271½	+ 3⅛	...	10.6
341	170⅜	Numis♦‡	333½	- ½	...	6.7
587½	375⅜	Onesavings Bank	514	+ 4½	...	6.8
652	421½	PayPoint	421½	- ½	...	13.2
6½	¼	PCF Group♦	⅞	+ ¼	...	-0.4
684⅛	506¾	**Phoenix**	582⅛	+ 6⅜	...	-6.7
260	136¼	Provident	225	...	...	4.2
1371½	797½	**Prudential**	1183	+ 5	...	19.2
2¼	⅞	Quantum Blockchain♦	1⅜	...	...	-8.1
142⅛	80¼	Quilter‡	85¼	+ ¾	...	60.9
140¼	57½	Randall & Quilter♦	58⅞	- 1	...	87.7
2220	1570	Rathbone Grp	1968	+ 2	...	15.2
1⅛	½	RiverFort Global Opps♦	⅝	...	...	2.0
2050	1370	Rockwood Strategic	2050	...	...	3.0
2500	1905	S & U	2500	...	...	11.8
2	¾	Sancus Lending Grp♦	¾	...	...	-0.3
56¾	40⅝	Schroder REIT	43¾	...	...	4.6
604⅜	358¾	**Schroders**	469	+ ½	...	2.1
1304½	920	**St James Place**‡	1155	+ 10	...	22.0
790¾	519½	**Stand Chart**	653⅛	+ 19⅛	...	14.6
12	7¼	Starvest♦	7½	...	...	-1.2
29	22½	STM Group♦	24½	...	...	9.4
4118⅜	3225½	Sun Life Can	3998⅜	+ 16⅝	...	10.2
10	5⅜	Tavistock Inv♦	7⅛	- ½	...	1.1
2590	1158	TBC Bank Group‡	2430	- 60	...	7.1
16¾	4	Tern♦	4	- ⅛	...	3.0
29¼	15¼	Time Finance♦	29¼	...	...	17.8
1245	900	Volvere♦	1200	...	...	...
42	18½	WH Ireland♦	21	+ ½	...	11.8
31	24	Walker Crips Grp	26	...	...	74.2
3908⅞	2919⅞	Wells Fargo	3286⅜	+ 63⅛	...	9.0
1305⅝	1022⅝	Westpac	1126½	- 9	...	15.2
31	21½	Worsley Investors Ltd	28	- 1	...	87.8
40749⅝	34662½	Zurich Fincl	38385⅜	+ 44¾	...	15.0

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	Dis(-) or Pm
1955	1042	**3i Group**	1946	+ 16½	...	17.4
363	281½	3i Infrastructure	323½	- 1½	...	-3.7
102½	80¼	Abrdn Div I&G	86¾	- 1⅛	...	-25.2
1428	1066	Aberforth Smlr	1264	- 10	...	-13.5
1046	876	Alliance	1008	+ 2	...	-6.0
457	345	Asia Dragon Tr	385	+ 4	...	-13.4
230	174	Athelney Trust	185	- 5	...	-17.3
206½	171¾	AVI Global Trust	193	+ ⅜	...	-10.3
348	204½	Baillie Gifford Ch Gr	232	+ 4	...	-12.8
102⅛	73½	Baillie Gifford Eu Gr	95¾	+ ⅜	...	-14.3
829	657	Baillie Gifford Jpn Tr	761	- 3	...	-9.4
168	131¼	Baillie Gifford SN	146½	+ ⅛	...	-11.0
183	139⅜	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	168	- 1⅜	...	-13.9
109½	90⅞	Bankers	100⅜	+ ⅛	...	-11.0
5232	380	BH Macro	414	+ 1½	...	3.1
1048	745⅜	Biotech Growth	862	+ 22	...	-9.3
151	95	BlckRck Com Inc	119⅜	- ⅛	...	-7.5
144½	116½	BlckRck Fro Inv	135	- 1	...	-8.8
565	396	BlckRck Grt Euro	563	+ 6	...	-3.4
206	165	BlckRck Inc & Gwth	191	+ 3	...	-11.8
457	330	BlckRck Latin Am	383½	+ 1½	...	-13.0
215	180	BlckRck SustAm	187	...	...	-5.6
1526	1162	BlckRck Smlr	1320	+ 4	...	-13.0
670	477⅞	BlckRck Throgmorton	596	...	...	-6.0
774	524	BlckRck Wld Min	620	- 10	...	1.2
325	256	CT Cap&Inc	309	- 3	...	-2.1
124⅛	68½	Balanced Comm Prop	78	- 1½	...	-32.8
162¾	122	The Glbl Smaller	145½	- ½	...	-12.3
534	375½	CT Priv Eq Ord	493	- 11	...	-28.8
96⅛	60	CT Real Estate	63	...	...	-34.9
90	71	CT UK HIT	83	...	...	-9.1
93	79	CT UK HIT B	91	...	...	-0.5
356	294	CT UK HIT UNIT	334	...	...	-8.5
1335	1072½	Brown Advsr US Sm	1205	- 10	...	-12.8
1115	888	Brunner	1065	- 5	...	-12.0
4065	3015	Caledonia Inv	3525	- 45	...	-29.4
175	141	Invesco BondInc	162	...	...	1.7
432	366½	City of Lon IT	415	- ½	...	2.3
122	75	Crystal Amber Fd	80	...	...	-33.2
580	454	Dunedin Entp	560	...	...	-8.1
690	537	Edinburgh IT	676	...	...	-7.0
214	146⅜	Edin Wwide	151	+ 1½	...	-17.8
336	268	EP Global Opp	328	- 2	...	-8.9
105	74½	European Assets	94	+ ⅜	...	-6.9
796	608	European Opp Tr	787	+ 6	...	-12.4
989	769	**F&C Invest Tr**	896	- 7	...	-4.7
530⅞	413½	Fidlty Asian Val	520	+ 2	...	-1.9
294¼	178⅛	Fidelity China Sp	225	+ 1	...	-10.4
361½	258½	Fidlty Euro Val	360	+ 1	...	-4.7
185	143	Fidlty Jap Tru	183½	+ 2	...	-9.1
293½	232	Fidlty Spec Val	282½	...	...	-5.0
923	731¾	Fins Gwth & Inc	908	+ 4	...	-3.7
118¾	83¾	GCP Infrastructure	87⅜	- 1	...	-20.5
659⅞	552⅝	Gen Emer Mkts	593⅞	+ 6⅞	...	-14.1
45	28½	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	32	+ ¼	...	-17.5
168½	130⅜	Greencoat UK Wind	153½	- ½	...	-7.9
194⅝	166	Hansa Investment	172	...	...	-42.7
196	163	Hansa Inv Co 'A'	164	- 4½	...	-43.8
2489	1900	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	2200	+ 15	...	-44.3
165½	120½	Hend Euro Foc	158¾	- ¼	...	-12.0
181	137¼	Hend High Inc	172½	+ 5	...	-2.6
952	674¼	Hend Smlr	812	- 3	...	-13.5
1966	1540	Herald	1770	+ 12	...	-14.6
418	310	HgCapital Trust	381	+ 7	...	-19.9
183⅜	138⅞	HICL Infra	151	- ⅛	...	-9.3
450	216	Highbridge Tactical	389	...	...	47.5
1223¾	928	ICG Ent Tr	1150	+ 2	...	-39.7
486⅜	373⅛	Impax Env Mkts	417	+ 1½	...	-3.5
374	279	Invesco Asia Tr	326½	+ 5½	...	-12.3
175	141	Invesco BondInc	162	...	...	1.7
157⅜	110½	IPST Bal	131½	...	...	-13.9
258½	200	IPST Gbl Eq	232	...	...	-14.0
101¾	92	IPST Managed	91	...	...	-16.7
182⅜	141	IPST UK Eq	161½	- ½	...	-13.6
504	373½	IP UKSmallerCos	429½	- 2½	...	-11.6
800	650	JPM American	733	+ 5	...	-3.2
402	222	JPM Asia	354½	+ 1½	...	-8.5
451½	239½	JPM Chinese	275½	+ 2½	...	-10.3
726	624	JPM Claverhs	684	- 4	...	-3.0
120⅜	91	JPM Em Mkts	105½	+ 1⅛	...	-9.8
449	339	JPM Euro disc	418	...	...	-14.5
142½	107½	JPM GEMI	129½	+ 1	...	-9.9
481	386	JPM GG&I	467	+ 3	...	1.4
898	719⅞	JPM Indian	810	+ 4	...	-17.5
353	301	JPM Jap Sml Co	321	+ 5	...	-12.8
510	408½	JPM Japan#	494½	+ 5½	...	-9.3
1012	735	JPM Mid Cap	910	...	...	-14.4
104	85¼	JPM Multi-Ass G&I	91¾	- 2¾	...	-2.8
½	134¾	″JPM Em E	GBX	+ 110⅝	...	...
315	230	JPM Smllr Co	273	...	...	-13.8
244½	174	Keystone IT	210½	+ 1½	...	-17.0
871	649	Law Debenture	819	- 1	...	2.3
135	99	Lowland	122½	- 1½	...	-8.3
223	156¾	Majedie	208	- 2	...	-13.6
354	272⅛	M Currie Port	350	+ 2	...	0.1
117	89⅞	Marwyn Val In	93	- 3½	...	-41.9
222	158¼	Mercantile IT	203½	...	...	-14.4
606	480	Merchants	572	...	...	1.5
768	639¾	Mid Wynd	698	+ 8	...	-3.9
1102	875	Monks Inv Tst	1008	+ 6	...	-10.2
151⅛	104⅛	Montanaro Eur Sml	142⅜	+ ½	...	-12.4
897	715	Murray Income Trust	869	+ 2	...	-7.2
275¾	225½	Murray Int	268⅜	+ ⅛	...	2.0
85⅛	70½	Nb Global Floating	73½	+ ⅛	...	-7.0
384	258	Pacific Assets	364	+ 1	...	-5.3
309	229⅛	Pantheon Int	271½	+ 1	...	-40.7
3115	2295	**Pershing Sq**	2738	+ 6	...	-36.5
501½	463¾	Personal Assets	478½	...	...	-0.6
2288¾	1697½	Polar Cap Tech	2125	+ 20	...	-13.0
202	130	Prem Glb & Inf	144½	...	...	-15.1
148½	112½	Renewables Inf	121⅛	- ⅛	...	-9.3
2570	1789⅞	RIT Cap Ptnr	1922	- 18	...	-18.0
750	530⅜	Riverstone	558	- 6	...	-52.9
457	366½	Schroder TotRt	416	...	...	-3.9
549¾	446	Schrd Asia Pac	498	+ 6½	...	-11.7
324	254½	Schrod Inc Gwth	307	- 3	...	...
222	187	Schrod Jap Gwth	222	+ 3	...	-11.2
626	454	Schrod UKMid	566	+ 2	...	-13.1
24¼	11½	Schroder UK PP Tr	14½	+ ⅛	...	-47.2
543	434	Scot American	540	- 2	...	1.4
937¾	604¾	**Scot Mtge**	655⅛	+ 7⅜	...	-20.4
242	205	Secs Tst Scot	220½	- ½	...	-0.9
99⅜	75½	Sequoia Eco	81½	- 1	...	-9.9
249½	195⅛	Temple Bar	229	- ½	...	-5.1
166	128½	Tplton Emg Mkt	148	+ 1	...	-14.1
⅜	...	Tiger Royal and Inv♦	⅛	...	...	45.8
421	263	TR Property	284	...	...	-8.3
76	64⅜	Troy Inc&Gth	72	- ½	...	-1.2
230	122	Utilico Ord	147	+ ½	...	-27.9
229	197½	Utilico Emerging Mkt	228	+ 1	...	-12.0
712	500	Vietnam Ent Inv	553	- 1	...	-15.4
237½	199¾	Witan	232	- 1	...	-6.9
3500	2820	Ww Health	3335	+ 35	...	-9.9



Construction & property

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
189	133	Alumasc♦	174	...	...	8.8
14½	8¾	Aseana Props	9¼	...	...	-4.6
71¾	47⅝	Assura	51⅜	- ¼	...	10.2
2¾	1½	Aukett Swanke♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.1
393⅜	247⅜	Balfour Beatty‡	386⅛	- 1½	...	18.3
514	323⅜	**Barratt Devs**	501	+ 1¾	...	7.8
2486	1586½	Bellway	2460	- 6	...	7.3
4504	3165	**Berkeley**	4235	+ 1	...	11.0
1426	987	Big Yellow Group	1157	- 8	...	7.6
455	181½	Billington Hldgs♦	420	...	...	34.1
345	218	Boot (Henry)‡	237	- 6	...	12.6
536	324¾	**Br Land**	356⅜	+ ⅛	...	48.8
167½	120	Caledonian Tst♦	160	...	...	31.9
64¾	43¾	Cap & Regnl‡	57	+ 1⅜	...	-0.5
2550	2310	Cardiff Prop	2430	+ 60	...	26.4
25	2½	Carecapital♦	7½	...	...	-0.8
170	106	Clarke T‡	148¾	- 4¾	...	10.6
291⅜	191⅝	Countryside Partner	229¾	+ 14	...	16.7
28⅛	6	Craven House♦	13⅝	...	...	-0.2
4353	2756½	**CRH**	4018	+ 5	...	16.6
3044	1876	Derwent London‡	2190	- 10	...	9.7
4	3	Dolphin Capital♦	3¾	...	...	-2.6
31½	22	First Prop♦	28	...	...	...
47½	37½	Fletcher King♦	37½	...	...	...
44	27¼	Foxtons Group‡	38	+ ¼	...	...
185⅛	145	Galliford Try	176	- 2⅜	...	39.1
470	252½	Genuit Group‡	329	+ 2½	...	19.9
590	335	Gleeson (MJ)	454	...	...	7.1
988⅝	630½	Grafton	858	- 9⅞	...	9.9
312¾	205⅜	Grainger	259½	+ 3	...	16.1
658½	409⅛	Great Portland	497¾	- 4⅛	...	-6.2
30½	17⅛	Hammerson	25⅜	+ ⅜	...	-2.7
171	101	Harworth Gp‡	124	- 1	...	4.2
630	425	Heath (Samuel)♦	425	...	...	8.8
442	274	Helical PLC	277	- 9½	...	6.6
1065	865	Highcroft Invs‡	865	...	...	3.7
208⅛	148¼	Ibstock	168⅛	+ 1⅛	...	21.8
234	176	James Halstead♦‡	210	- 2	...	22.3
849	591	Keller	702	- 4	...	8.1
6771⅞	3895⅜	Kingspan Group	5717⅛	+ 91¼	...	22.4
774½	485¼	**Land Sec**	631⅜	+ 3⅛	...	...
101	58	Life Science Reit	75⅜	+ ⅜	...	...
25	13	Lon & Assoc	13	...	...	-1.7
261	161¾	Londonmetric Property	186	+ ½	...	3.9
61¾	37	Macau Prop Op	60½	+ 1	...	-7.8
545½	225⅜	Marshalls	305	+ 5¾	...	11.1
115½	74	Michelmersh♦	93	+ 1	...	14.8
2120	1392	Morgan Sindall	1846	- 10	...	9.0
13900	10800	Mountview	11800	+ 700	...	14.7
99½	68¼	NewRiver REIT	84½	...	...	-2.9
291	195	Palace Capital	238	- 2	...	11.3
335	260	Panther Securities♦	300	- 10	...	2.7
2254	1138½	**Persimmon**	1308	+ 1	...	5.3
5½	2	Pires Investments♦	2	...	...	-4.5
65	30	Plaza Cent	30	...	...	...
148½	98⅝	Primary Health Properties	106	+ ⅜	...	10.8
39	28¼	Real Estate Invs♦	30½	...	...	3.9
585	372½	Redrow	532½	- 7½	...	6.6
1177	794	Safestore	947	- 1½	...	5.3
1190	763½	Savills‡	920	+ 2½	...	9.2
6¼	5⅝	Secure Property♦	5⅝	...	...	14.8
1129	694	**Segro**	815	+ 7	...	2.4
44⅜	27¾	SIG	41½	+ ¼	...	...
69	37⅜	SigmaRoc♦	60⅜	- ⅛	...	...
116⅜	66½	Sirius Real Estate	80¼	+ ¾	...	6.2
173½	160½	Smart (J)‡	164½	...	...	4.5
50	30½	Steppe Cement♦	37	- ¼	...	8.5
132⅜	85	**Taylor Wimpey**	124½	+ ½	...	8.1
178½	129	Town Centre‡	147	...	...	5.8
1223½	738	Travis Perkins	923½	+ 2½	...	9.0
204¾	125⅝	Tritax Big Box Reit‡	143½	- ⅜	...	2.5
98¼	57	Tritax Eurobox	62⅛	- ¾	...	...
306½	184½	Tyman‡	268	+ 2½	...	10.5
1207	791½	**Unite**‡	914½	+ 2	...	10.6
938½	519½	Vistry Group‡	813	- 13½	...	7.1
166	91	Warehouse REIT	105	- ⅛	...	2.4
722	343⅜	Workspace Grp	477⅜	...	...	-7.0
755	622½	Wynnstay Props♦	675	+ 10	...	4.8

Consumer goods

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5¾	1	Agriterra♦	1¼	...	...	-0.1
39½	25½	Airea♦	36½	+ 1	...	13.5
952	740	Anglo-Eastern	876	- 4	...	8.0
306	147½	Animalcare♦	182	- 3	...	...
2070	1237	**AB Foods**	1899½	+ 4½	...	31.4
121	79	Bakkavor Group‡	92⅜	- 2½	...	9.6
561	432	Barr (AG)‡	518	- 2	...	18.3
3⅞	1½	Bidstack Group♦	1¾	...	...	-1.5
67½	24½	Brand Architekts♦	32½	...	...	-1.4
3628	2674½	**Brit Amer Tob**	2678½	+ 12	...	9.0
936	707½	Britvic	915	+ 2	...	20.7
2641	1569	**Burberry**	2331	+ 41	...	20.0
207	134¾	C&C Grp	134¾	+ 3¾	...	-8.0
7	2⅛	Capital Metals♦	3¾	...	...	-1.0
143	92	Carr's Grp‡	142½	+ 1½	...	17.5
575	305	Character Grp♦	305	- 11	...	5.4
1640	1070	Churchill China♦‡	1390	+ 10	...	...
2565	1674	**Coca Cola HBC**	2535	- 3	...	20.2
880	610	Colefax♦	752½	...	...	13.3
3340	2586	Cranswick	3140	- 6	...	16.5
329	164	Devro	329	...	...	17.8
3960	3410½	**Diageo**	3542½	- 5½	...	27.2
1⅜	⅜	Distil♦	½	...	...	13.7
1000	784	Evans (M.P.)♦‡	816	- 2	...	7.0
103½	68	Finsbury Food♦	93	...	...	11.0
9920	5690	Games Workshop	9735	+ 35	...	26.8
1227¼	842½	Glanbia	1186	- 31¼	...	29.2
114½	60¾	Greencore	76⅛	...	...	15.2
355	231	Headlam‡	265	- 6	...	11.4
1218	500	Hilton Food	754	+ 15	...	15.7
31½	22	Hornby♦	23	...	...	...
2185	1769½	**Imperial Brands**	1789½	+ 2	...	5.9
1½	1¼	J Lewis Hford♦	1⅜	...	...	8.2
9439¼	7240⅝	Kerry Gp	8134⅜	...	...	22.5
35⅛	15½	McBride	30½	- 1⅛	...	-5.4
305	205	Mulberry Group♦	250	...	...	10.3
1340	986½	Nichols♦	1006½	- 13½	...	...
255	165	Norcros	170	...	...	5.3
379⅝	295⅜	Origin Ents♦	321⅝	+ 8⅝	...	10.1
14½	⅛	Pittards♦	6⅜	...	...	3.0
512½	300	Portmeirion♦‡	507½	...	...	21.6
⅞	⅝	Provexis♦	⅝	...	...	0.3
221	170⅜	PZ Cussons	197	- ⅛	...	22.7
164	92½	REA	95¾	...	...	-7.5
2⅜	1	Real Gd Fd♦	1⅛	...	...	0.1
350	235	Tandem♦‡	240	...	...	3.4
904	507	Treatt	701	+ 1	...	28.1
3¼	1¾	Ukrproduct Gp♦	2¼	...	...	-1.5
5051	4076½	Unilever (NV)	...	...	...	...
4443½	3451½	**Unilever**‡	4229	- 42	...	21.7
632	317	Victoria♦	489½	+ 2	...	...

Engineering

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
...	...	Ass Br Eng#	15	...	...	-3.5
1222	739	Avon Rubber	970	- 21	...	...
367½	268½	Babcock	319	...	...	-1.9
1032	714	**BAE**	988	+ 2⅜	...	18.0
2150	1300	Braime A N/V♦‡	1300	...	...	14.6
1750	1500	Braime Group♦‡	1750	+ 100	...	19.7
602½	500	Caffyns	550	...	...	7.9
5	1¼	Cap XX Ld♦	1¼	...	...	-2.8
380	279	Castings	377	...	...	18.2
5	3¼	Chamberlin♦	3⅜	...	...	-0.2
36	14	Checkit♦	26½	...	...	-3.2
560	391	Cohort♦	499	...	...	44.3
400	188½	Crestchic Plc♦	399	...	...	...
1390	1020⅜	Dewhurst♦	1075	...	...	12.3
350	192¼	Dialight	230	+ 1	...	...
1322⅞	873⅝	Electrolux 'B'	1249⅜	+ 2⅝	...	9.4
182½	85½	Feedback♦	122½	+ 4	...	...
940	426	Gooch Hsego♦	574	...	...	42.5
4490	2400	Goodwin	4380	- 50	...	24.2
2478	1876½	**Halma**	2455	- 43	...	35.5
1448	893	Hill & Smith	1402	+ 40	...	32.9
121½	71½	Holders Tech♦‡	76	...	...	4.6
2¼	¾	Image Scan♦	2⅛	...	...	12.6
1674	1071	IMI	1658	- 5	...	22.6
...	...	Inspirit Energy♦	...	...	...	...
10025	6740	Judges Scientific♦	9100	- 280	...	45.9
85½	72½	LPA♦	80½	...	...	...
798¾	768⅛	Meggitt	798¾	+ ⅛	...	...
510⅜	286½	**Melrose**	480½	- 3½	...	...
325	217	Morgan Advanced	293	+ 2	...	12.3
433	227½	Mpac♦	250	+ 10	...	6.5
745	260	MS Intl♦	452	- 14	...	64.5
2855	1720	Oxford Inst	2740	- 5	...	37.4
2111¾	1053⅛	Philips El nv	...	...	...	...
17½	12¼	PipeHawk♦	12½	...	...	26.6
89½	23⅛	Pressure Tech♦#	44½	+ ½	...	-3.7
4338	3342	Renishaw	3824	- 74	...	21.8
31	20½	Renold♦	27¾	- 1½	...	9.9
158	66⅛	**Rolls-Royce**	157¼	+ 1¼	...	...
1¾	⅝	Ross Gp	⅝	...	...	-1.6
337⅛	229½	Rotork	337⅛	- 5	...	36.6
200	144	SDI Group♦	145	...	...	23.9
177	111	Senior‡	177	- 1	...	30.8
67	48	Severfield	64⅛	+ ⅛	...	11.4
15½	8	Six Hundred♦	8⅝	...	...	50.4
1645	1107¾	SKF B	1429⅛	- 7½	...	10.6
300	200	Slingsby (HC)♦	300	...	...	4.9
1797½	1364	**Smiths**	1685½	- 25½	...	26.8
1435	986	Solid State♦	1130	+ 5	...	27.2
470	324	Somero Enter♦	325	...	...	7.2
3841	2690	Spectris‡	3814	- 26	...	12.5
12350	9130	**Spirax-Sarco**	11280	+ 45	...	35.5
57½	28½	Surface Trsfms♦	36	+ ½	...	...
3½	1½	Tanfield♦	3¼	+ ⅜	...	-9.0
440	345	Thorpe FW♦	362	...	...	25.1
2⅝	⅝	TP Group♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.3
95½	48½	Transense Tech♦	86	- 1	...	63.2
3500	3070	Ultra Electrncs	3500	+ 6	...	37.4
435	284½	Vesuvius‡	418⅜	- 2⅛	...	11.1
1530	713	Videndum	722	+ 2	...	13.2
323½	202	Volex♦	270	- 4	...	14.7
2021	1328½	**Weir**‡	1803	- 8½	...	30.4
3435	1464	XP Power	2220	+ 20	...	11.8
165	97½	Zytronic♦	102½	...	...	34.1

Health

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1454	1103	Abcam♦	1226	+ 123	...	...
316	219½	AdvancedMedical♦‡	240	- 8	...	37.7
22	5	Allergy Therap♦#	6¼	+ 1¼	...	-7.3
156	16½	Angle♦	20	- ¼	...	-2.7
603	185	Anpario♦	207½	- 2½	...	10.9
12294	9656	**AstraZeneca**	12036	+ 26	...	...
37¼	29	Circassia Group♦	34	...	...	34.0
248½	199	**Convatec**‡	222⅛	- 4	...	51.8
59	25⅜	Creighton	34½	+ 1½	...	6.6
3810	2520	Dechra Pharma	3174	- 476	...	47.3
1½	¾	Deltex Medical♦	1⅜	...	...	-8.5
23	10½	e-Therapeutics♦	12½	+ ⅛	...	...
130	82½	Eco Animal Hlth♦	112½	...	...	13.6
51	24⅝	EKF Diagnostics♦	27⅞	+ 2⅞	...	7.9
56⅞	27⅜	Futura Medical♦	43	+ ⅛	...	...
3272	2298	Genus	2510	- 8	...	44.6
1820⅝	1296	**GSK**‡	1425¾	+ 2	...	16.4
⅝	¼	Gunsynd♦	⅜	...	...	3.7
353½	246⅛	**Haleon**	339¼	- ⅝	...	...
1874	1190½	Hikma Pharms	1841	+ 15	...	13.8
335	134½	Hutchmed China♦	218	+ 12	...	...
...	...	Immunodiag Sys♦	378	...	...	...
6⅞	1½	ImmuPharma♦	3⅛	...	...	-1.0
7025	1365	Indivior	1501	- 18	...	85.9
105	42	Inspiration Health♦	44½	+ ½	...	6.8
41½	18¾	IXICO♦	19¾	- ¼	...	6.3
501½	350	Mediclinic	500½	+ ½	...	31.2

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
3½	1½	N4 Pharma♦	1¾	...	...	-2.1
93.95	73.32	Novartis	CHF 91.24	+ 0.73	...	10.4
4	2¼	Omega Diags♦	2½	...	...	-0.9
11¼	4¾	Ovoca Bio♦	7¾	– 1¼	...	-2.2
562	297	Oxford Biomedica	444½	– 2	...	19.9
5	2	Physiomics♦	2⅝	...	...	...
5	3¼	Proteome Scies♦	5	...	...	...
6808	5556	**Reckitt Benckiser**‡	6524	+ 22	...	...
63½	31⅞	RUA Life Sciences♦	39	– 2	...	-3.7
230	70	Sareum Hldgs♦	121	– 4	...	...
1321½	984½	**Smith & Neph**	1280½	– 1½	...	29.0
250	203	Spire Hcare	234½	– 4½	...	...
35	7⅜	Synairgen♦	9⅝	...	...	-0.4
70	42	Tissue Regenix♦	54	– ½	...	...
46½	15½	Totally♦	21¼	+ ½	...	33.7
420	295	Tristel♦	330	– 5	...	68.0
26¼	8⅞	ValiRx♦	9¼	– ½	...	...

Industrials

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
134¾	54⅜	Accsys Tech♦	72	+ 4¾	...	...
4690½	3372	BASF	4111½	– 27¼	...	8.1
5792⅞	4115½	Bayer DM50	4688⅞	– 58¼	...	54.7
205	46½	Biome Tech♦	125	+ 5	...	-4.1
3⅝	1½	Byotrol♦	1½	...	...	...
7	6¾	Camb Gbl Timber♦	6¾	...	...	-9.0
79	50⅞	Coats Grp‡	69¾	– 2¼	...	15.5
7482	5908	**Croda**‡	6372	+ 54	...	27.7
1125	575	Cropper (James)♦	920	– 10	...	28.0
129	87⅞	Elementis	117⅞	+ 1¾	...	...
27½	11	Hardide♦	12¼	...	...	-2.3
2373	1784	**Johnson Math**	1904	+ 15½	...	24.0
1705	1242	**Mondi**	1290	+ 4½	...	9.8
100	77½	Robinson♦	93½	...	...	...
368½	241¾	**DS Smith**	317	– ½	...	18.0
743¼	444⅝	Swire Pacific	580⅝	– 1	...	...
19	6⅝	Symph Environ♦	6¾	– ⅛	...	...
332⅝	88	Synthomer	109	...	...	2.2
2691⅞	2055⅞	Takeda Pharm	2645¼	+ 48⅛	...	14.8
7	2⅝	Velocys♦	2⅝	...	...	-3.0
1931	1504	Victrex	1550	+ 14	...	18.4
651	425	Wynnstay Group♦	437½	– 2½	...	10.0
410	233	Zotefoams‡	368	– 11	...	22.1

Leisure

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
210⅝	51⅝	888 Hldgs	77	...	...	5.7
846	542	Accesso Tech♦	710	+ 16	...	18.6
680	370	Best of the Best♦	572½	– 2½	...	6.4
1011½	501⅝	Carnival	787¼	+ 17⅛	...	-1.2
135	108	Celtic♦	127½	...	...	12.6
28⅜	¾	Cineworld	1	– ⅛	...	...
339	215⅝	Domino's Pizza	294½	– 1¾	...	15.0
1587½	1075½	**Entain**	1486½	+ 11½	...	33.2
16725	7614	**Flutter Ent**	16725	+ 325	...	...
32⅜	22	Gaming Realms♦	30⅞	...	...	...
290	290	Heavitree♦	290	...	...	17.4
185	65	Heavitree A♦	110	...	...	6.6
145	120	Hermes Pacific♦	120	...	...	...
5784	4193	**InterContinental Hotels**	5384	+ 22	...	50.4
1½	¾	Minoan Gp♦	1	...	...	-7.8
214	102	Mitch & Butlers	209⅝	+ 1¾	...	...
240½	92½	On The Beach	103	+ 1	...	-5.4
1600	1020	PPHE Hotels‡	1100	+ 5	...	-8.9
112	52⅞	Rank Grp	102	...	...	13.7
56½	26⅝	Restaurant Gp	49⅝	+ 1½	...	-9.3
50½	30½	Rotala♦	46½	...	...	...
25	15½	Sportech♦	18⅞	– ¼	...	...
277⅞	184⅜	SSP	264⅝	+ 2½	...	-5.1
5¾	1⅞	Tasty♦	3	...	...	4.1
295	65	Tintra♦	92½	...	...	-1.6
704⅜	290⅝	Tui	530⅝	+ 1½	...	-5.5
3⅛	1⅛	Webis Holdings♦	1⅜	...	...	...
781⅞	389⅝	Wetherspoon JD	741	+ 4½	...	-6.9
3318	2285	**Whitbread**	3318	+ 12	...	...
1338	870	Young & Co - A♦	1140	– 15	...	...
835	564	Young & Co - N/V♦	772	+ 17	...	...

Media

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
⅝	⅛	7digital Gp♦	⅜	...	...	-5.7
88	52½	Aeorema Comms♦	80	...	...	22.1
48	20½	Altitude Group♦	44½	+ ½	...	...
85½	70½	Arcontech Grp♦	72½	...	...	10.0
315½	176⅛	Ascential	239½	– 4	...	...
675	486⅛	**Auto Trader**	637¾	– 1⅛	...	31.4
492	366	Bloomsbury Pub	436	+ 1	...	17.9
8	3¼	Bonhill Group♦	4¾	...	...	...
172½	71	Catalyst Media♦	140	...	...	...
¼	⅛	Catenae♦	⅛	...	...	-0.2
...	...	Daily Mail‡	270	– 2½	...	10.3
150	100	DCD Media♦#	100	– 30	...	5.0
64½	43	Ebiquity♦	48	...	...	...
1466	984	Euromoney In Inv	1460	+ 2	...	...
2006	871½	Future	871½	– 24½	...	15.0
1400	930	GlobalData♦	1305	...	...	64.6
120¾	50	Hyve Group	120½	...	...	...
196	46½	IG Design Grp♦	157½	+ 5	...	23.0
729	501¾	**Informa**	729	+ 1⅛	...	...
90	55½	ITV‡	74½	– 1	...	8.0
10¼	4½	Jaywing♦	4½	...	...	...
9¼	1¾	Live Company Gp♦	2⅛	...	...	-0.4
...	...	Mediazest♦	...	...	...	-5.2
47	26½	Merit Grp♦	43	– 1	...	...
52½	3	Mirada♦	3	...	...	-0.1
68½	42	Mission Group♦	50½	...	...	8.5
280⅝	168⅞	Moneysupermarket	262⅝	+ 1	...	26.7
1730⅝	1204⅞	News Corp A	1496	...	...	24.4
1746½	1230⅝	News Corp B	1504½	– 1⅛	...	24.5
1326	755	Next 15 Comms♦	799	– 25	...	...
995⅛	734½	**Pearson**	827⅜	– 2¾	...	39.5
107	69⅛	Photo-Me	107	+ 5	...	18.6
4⅝	2	Primorus Inv♦	3	...	...	5.4
187½	108⅞	Quarto	166½	...	...	9.2
124	67	Reach‡	73½	– 2⅞	...	81.7
1⅜	¾	REACT Grp♦	1⅜	...	...	20.0
2722	2081	**Relx**‡	2495	– 6	...	32.9
663	445⅜	**Rightmove**‡	559⅛	+ 6⅛	...	31.6
140	65	SpaceandPeople♦	92½	...	...	...
315	245	STV Group‡	246	– 6	...	6.0
310	122½	System1 Group♦	185	...	...	8.8
2991⅝	2270⅝	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2546¾	+ 23⅛	...	13.9
2769⅛	2141⅛	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2352⅜	+ 24⅛	...	12.9
...	...	Vela Tech♦	...	...	...	6.3
356	222	Wilmington	294	– 4	...	18.7
1051½	725⅜	**WPP**	897⅜	+ 3	...	17.0
117½	77½	Zinc Media♦	112½	+ 7½	...	-7.1

Natural resources

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1	⅜	ADM Energy♦	⅝	...	...	...
⅛	...	Advance Energy♦#	⅛	...	...	-0.1
33⅜	17⅛	AFC Energy♦	17⅛	– ½	...	...
...	...	Afentra PLC	...	...	...	...
⅛	...	Alba Mineral Res♦	...	...	...	-2.1
¾	⅜	Alien Metals♦	⅜	...	...	...
91⅛	64¾	Alumina	75⅜	+ ¼	...	15.7
1¼	⅝	Aminex	1	...	...	-6.1
1¾	⅝	Amur Mins Corp♦	1⅝	...	...	...
723574¼	4657	Anglo Amer Plat	4657	– 97	...	3.3
4017½	2337½	**Anglo American**	2365½	+ 15½	...	4.6
121	64	Anglo Asian Mng♦	110	+ 2½	...	9.5
1805	991½	**Antofagasta**	1426½	+ 10	...	14.7
4⅞	2⅞	Arc Minerals♦	3⅜	...	...	2.4
3⅞	2½	Ariana Res♦	2½	...	...	3.3
¾	⅜	Arkle Resources♦	⅜	...	...	-1.4
3⅝	1¼	Armadale Cap♦	1¼	...	...	...
2	⅞	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	1	...	...	...
402½	188	Atalaya Mine♦	327	– 2	...	4.1
¼	...	Baron Oil♦	...	...	...	...
6	1⅞	Beowulf Mining♦	1⅞	...	...	-8.4
⅛	...	Bezant Res♦	...	...	...	-0.7
2855	2034	BHP Group	2352	– ½	...	10.2
5½	1¾	Border & Sthn Pet♦	2¼	– ⅜	...	...
21½	13¾	Bougainville	20¾	...	...	...
4¾	1	BowLeven♦	1	...	...	-1.3
567½	363⅞	**BP**‡	481⅝	+ ¼	...	17.4
16⅝	8¼	Cadence Min♦	9¾	...	...	0.9
3⅛	1⅞	Cadogan Petrol	1⅞	– ¼	...	23.6
1350	825	Caledonia Mining♦	1055	...	...	10.3
555¼	192⅝	Capricorn Energy‡	192⅞	– 2½	...	1.5
8⅞	2¼	Caspian Sunrise♦	6	...	...	...
125½	74⅝	Centamin	103⅞	– 1⅝	...	16.1
292½	200	Cent Asia Metals♦‡	200	...	...	5.8
15⅝	7⅝	Chaarat Gold♦	11¾	+ 1¼	...	...
23	13½	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	15⅞	– ¼	...	...
6	1¼	China Nonferr Gold♦	1¾	...	...	...
½	...	Clontarf Energy♦	...	...	...	-2.0
34½	15¼	Condor Gld♦	30	+ ½	...	...
1¼	⅛	Corcel♦	¼	...	...	-0.3
10206¼	95⅛	DRD Gold	95⅛	+ 1⅞	...	11.2
1¼	⅜	ECR Minerals♦	⅜	– ⅛	...	-2.5
19½	4¾	Edenville Energy♦	6	...	...	-0.4
1⅜	⅝	Empyrean Energy♦	1⅛	...	...	-8.7
2184	1461	**Endeavour**	2006	+ 2	...	29.8
35⅞	15⅞	EnQuest	16⅛	– ⅜	...	1.0
8	2⅜	Eurasia Mining♦	2⅜	– ⅜	...	...
3	⅞	Europa Oil&Gas♦	1⅛	...	...	10.9
193⅜	97⅞	Ferrexpo	102½	– 1½	...	0.8
968	644	**Fresnillo**‡	659⅜	– 5⅜	...	15.6
...	...	G3 Exploration#	28	...	...	-2.6
39	18	Galantas Gold♦	18	– ½	...	-3.0
7¼	2¼	GCM Resources♦	2⅞	...	...	-2.4
61½	23⅛	Gem Diamonds	23⅛	– ¼	...	2.4
31¼	12⅛	Getech♦	15	...	...	-3.5
578	400	**Glencore**‡	434½	– ¼	...	15.9
½	⅛	Global Petrol♦	⅛	...	...	-2.1
134173	1244¾	Gold Fields	1244¾	+ 13⅝	...	19.1
12½	7½	Goldplat♦	8	...	...	6.0
8⅛	2½	Goldstone Res♦	3¼	...	...	...
13¼	6¾	Greatld Gld♦	7	– ⅛	...	...
99¾	70	Griffin Mining♦	87½	– ¾	...	9.6
310	129⅞	Gulf Keystone	130⅝	– 1	...	8.1
25⅞	5⅞	Harland & Wolff Gp♦	14¼	– ¼	...	1.1
115¼	51⅞	Hochschild	79⅝	– 3	...	7.7
168	85	Horizonte Minrls♦	140½	+ ½	...	...
356½	187⅞	Hunting PLC	206½	+ 4	...	-5.2
106½	15½	IGas Energy♦	15½	– ½	...	-0.7
⅜	...	Independ Res♦	...	...	...	...
317	195	Indus Gas♦	195	...	...	20.2
¾	⅛	Ironveld♦	⅛	...	...	-4.9
318⅝	69⅛	ITM Power♦	70⅝	+ 2⅝	...	...
15½	7⅛	Jubilee Metals♦	7⅛	...	...	6.2
3	1⅜	Karel Diamd Res♦	2½	...	...	...
1	⅛	KEFI Gold and Copper♦	⅞	...	...	-3.6
495	380⅛	Kenmare Res	443	– 8½	...	5.1
27⅝	5⅛	Lampsell#	8⅞	...	...	-0.7
23½	11⅛	Landore Res♦	11⅛	– 1⅜	...	-2.6
½	⅛	Lansdowne O&G♦	⅛	– ⅛	...	-5.0
16	12½	Leeds Group♦	12½	...	...	-2.0
8⅛	1⅞	Lexington Gold♦	8⅛	...	...	...
21½	3⅛	MC Mining♦	9¼	...	...	-1.9
2⅛	¾	Metals Explorn♦	1⅜	...	...	3.1
⅝	⅛	Nostra Terra♦	⅛	...	...	-1.2
26½	⅛	Nostrum O&G#	10	+ ¼	...	...
...	...	Oil Search	218⅞	– 5⅞	...	60.3
⅝	⅛	Oilex♦#	⅛	...	...	-3.7
¼	...	Oriole Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-1.9
⅜	⅛	Ormonde Mining♦#	⅜	...	...	-3.1
17⅛	4⅞	Orosur Mining♦	4½	...	...	-6.7
22¼	12⅞	Pan African Res♦	16½	...	...	5.4
140¼	16⅞	Pantheon Res♦	16¾	– ⅛	...	...
79	21	Parkmead Grp♦	21	...	...	-1.8
⅝	⅛	Pathfinder Mins♦	⅛	...	...	-4.0
120	66	Petra Diamonds	66	+ ¼	...	2.2
3	1⅛	Petrel Resources♦	1⅛	...	...	-6.4
7	1⅞	Petro Matad♦	4⅞	– 1⅛	...	...
157⅞	46	Petrofac	71⅛	– 1⅞	...	-1.8
1⅛	...	Petroneft Res♦	...	...	...	-0.3
1¾	⅞	Petropavlovsk#	1⅛	– ⅛	...	1.6
7½	3⅛	Phoenix Global♦	6½	+ ⅛	...	-1.6
4½	1⅞	Plexus Holdings♦	3⅛	+ ⅜	...	-0.7
350	168	Polymetal Intl	187⅛	– 42⅝	...	...
698	499	Porvair‡	654	+ 10	...	25.1
19½	3⅛	Prospex Energy♦	9	– ¼	...	...
14⅜	8½	Proton Motor Power S♦	10⅛	...	...	-1.8
4	1⅞	Providence Res♦	3⅛	...	...	29.0
2¾	1	Quadrise Fuels Intl♦	1½	– ⅛	...	-5.8
27⅛	2	Rambler Met&Min♦‡	5⅞	...	...	0.1
⅜	⅛	Reabold Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-2.7
⅝	⅛	Red Rock Res♦	⅛	...	...	-0.8
6844½	4678⅛	Rio Tinto Ltd	5843½	– 9⅞	...	6.1
6377	4486	**Rio Tinto**	4936½	– 12	...	5.1
41½	19⅞	San Leon Energy♦	27⅜	+ 1⅝	...	10.2
½	⅛	Scirocco Energy♦	¼	...	...	...
47	22½	Serabi Gold♦	31	– 1	...	4.2
450	207½	Serica Energy♦	231½	+ 5⅝	...	...
13½	8½	Shanta Gold♦‡	11¼	...	...	7.1
2604½	1936⅝	**Shell**‡	2395	– 14	...	12.6
2⅝	⅞	Sound Energy♦	1¾	...	...	11.0
⅛	...	Sunrise Resources♦	...	...	...	...
¼	...	Tertiary Minerals♦	⅛	...	...	-3.5
⅝	⅛	Thor Mining♦	¼	...	...	-1.7
5312	3883¼	Total Eng SE	4860⅛	– 46⅞	...	11.1
¼	...	Tower Resources♦	...	...	...	-1.0
57½	22½	Tullow Oil	24⅞	...	...	2.4
⅛	...	UK Oil & Gas♦	...	...	...	-2.2
418	135	URU Metals♦	150	...	...	4.8
1¼	⅛	Vast Res♦	⅛	...	...	-0.1
...	...	Victoria Oil&Gas♦#	3¼	...	...	-1.8
...	...	W Resources♦#	2⅛	...	...	-0.3
3¾	2⅛	Westmount Engy♦	2⅛	...	...	-0.4
251⅝	104½	Wood Grp (J)	138⅞	– 1	...	-5.7
6⅝	⅜	Woodbois♦	⅜	...	...	1.8
5¼	1⅜	Xtract Resources♦	1½	...	...	-2.8
7¼	4	Zephyr Energy♦	4	...	...	-5.1

Professional & support services

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5090	2240	4imprint Grp‡	4880	+ 180	...	82.3
555	460	Andrews Sykes♦	540	...	...	17.2
5874	3359	**Ashtead**	4996	+ 18	...	24.3
19⅛	⅞	Asimilar Group♦	1	...	...	...
133½	53½	AssetCo♦	53½	...	...	0.3
53½	38½	Avisen♦	50½	...	...	...
148	117	Begbies Traynor♦	132	...	...	...
207	155	Blancco Tech♦	171	...	...	61.2
3225	2575	**Bunzl**‡	3156	+ 19	...	23.9
42⅝	22⅝	Capita	32⅛	+ ⅜	...	2.4
45	36	CEPS♦	39	...	...	-8.8
150	105½	Christie Group♦	127½	– 5	...	54.2
2233	1641	**Compass**	2233	– 2	...	54.3
252	97	CPPGroup♦	191½	– 3½	...	...
77	47¼	Croma Security♦	47½	...	...	6.8
5816	4030	**DCC**	5022	+ 46	...	16.6
114½	39½	De La Rue	42⅜	+ ⅜	...	5.5
3044	2158	Diploma	3044	– 28	...	54.4
914	597	Discoverie	820	– 10	...	67.2
34½	23½	Driver Group♦	33	...	...	15.7
325½	175⅛	Essentra‡	189½	– 2⅜	...	21.3
3160	2285	**Experian**	2830	+ 17	...	36.3
12380	8680	Ferguson	12000	+ 135	...	17.7
270	215	FIH Group♦	260	– 10	...	...
11	5¼	Grafenia♦	10	...	...	-7.4
588	317	Hargeaves Serv♦	392	...	...	4.1
735	450	Impellam Grp♦	675	+ 5	...	36.8
23¼	4	Ince G♦#	5⅛	...	...	2.9
4899	3619	**Intertek**	4164	+ 33	...	23.4
251⅜	115⅝	IWG	150	+ 2⅝	...	-5.7
125⅜	77	Johnson Srvce♦	120⅞	– ⅜	...	75.2
181½	106	Journeo♦	169½	...	...	38.0
81	56½	Kier Gp	81	– ¾	...	7.9
1400	1080	Latham (J)♦	1230	...	...	6.7
1032½	695	Lok'n Store♦‡	878	+ 28	...	26.6
3850	2300	Lon Security♦	2800	+ 50	...	15.4
390	220	LSL Prop Services‡	270	– 7	...	7.5
125½	86	Macfarlane‡	109	– 1	...	12.6
315	90	Maintel Hldgs♦	105	...	...	3.2
2200	8¼	Malvern Intl♦	16½	...	...	...
247	182	Mears Group	242	– 1	...	21.0
608	590	Menzies (John)	607	– 1	...	48.0
94⅞	52	Mitie Gp	91½	– 1	...	45.7
13¼	3⅞	MobilityOne♦	5½	...	...	4.0
56½	25	Newmark Sec♦	53½	...	...	...
6½	3½	Norm Broadbent♦	5⅞	+ ⅜	...	...
61½	37	Northern Bear♦	50	...	...	5.1
286	217	NWF Grp♦	265	...	...	...
491½	362⅝	PageGroup‡	442½	– 1⅛	...	11.9
68	46	PCI-PAL♦	51½	...	...	...
12	7	Petards♦	7½	+ ½	...	13.6
26½	13	PHSC♦	14	+ ½	...	25.4
2⅝	⅛	PowerHouse Egy♦	⅛	...	...	-1.1
98	61	Record	87½	– ¾	...	24.0
437½	283⅛	Redde Northgate	388⅛	+ 1	...	9.7
757	555	Renew Hldgs♦	737	– 8	...	18.2
851	489	Renewi	584	– 9	...	12.3
649⅛	445	**Rentokil**	640	+ 2	...	45.3
466	250	Restore♦	250	– 12	...	29.7
600	332	Ricardo	578	+ 6	...	51.6
600	408	Robert Walters‡	429	+ 4	...	9.8
20	11½	Roebuck Food Grp♦	14½	– ½	...	2.2
239	95⅛	RPS Group	221	– 1	...	...
1159	812	**RS Group**	852¾	– 6⅛	...	21.6
24	16	RTC Group♦	17	...	...	...
408⅞	238½	RWS Hldgs♦	251⅞	+ 2⅝	...	23.0
440	365	Science Group♦‡	400	...	...	18.4
188¼	145⅞	Serco‡	147¼	– 1⅛	...	6.0
57½	27½	Smiths News	51⅛	+ ½	...	4.9
3596	2452	**Smurfit Kappa**	2994	+ 4	...	13.6
50½	32½	Staffline Gp♦	38	...	...	29.2
484½	317⅝	SThree‡	392	– 10½	...	12.6
137½	95	Synectics♦	107½	...	...	...
29¾	21⅞	Thruvision Group♦	25½	...	...	-9.2
94	35	Tribal♦	39⅞	– ¼	...	12.4
89	49	Vianet♦	76½	– 1	...	...
962	615	Vp	670	+ 20	...	16.5
2⅝	1	Westminster♦	1⅛	...	...	-1.4

Real estate

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
162⅝	95½	Shaftesbury Cap	122	+ 2¼	...	35.8

Retailing

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
81¼	37⅞	AO World	65	– 2⅝	...	...
503⅛	295½	**B&M European**	490	+ 4⅛	...	11.4
42⅝	20¼	Brown (N)♦	27	+ 1	...	7.9
112½	40⅝	Card Factory	92⅞	– 1⅝	...	...
2192	1549	CVS Group♦	2136	– 26	...	59.8
194	104⅝	DFS Furn‡	120⅛	+ 2	...	6.3
1275	670½	Dunelm	1176	+ 21	...	15.8
949½	600	**Frasers Group**	748½	– 17	...	33.2
2904	1673	Greggs‡	2714	– 30	...	23.7
229⅞	124⅝	Halfords	200⅞	+ 1	...	6.6
743½	480⅝	Howden Joinery	686	+ 6⅞	...	12.9
941	666	Inchcape‡	801	+ 8	...	27.0
4¼	1⅝	IQ-AI	2¼	...	...	-7.8
186⅝	89⅛	**JD Sports**	160⅞	+ 1⅛	...	19.3
291½	203	**Kingfisher**	241½	+ 1	...	6.0
94¼	61⅞	Lookers‡	82⅛	...	...	5.3
169¼	93⅛	Marks & Spencer	162¾	+ 1⅛	...	...
11⅛	5⅝	Mothercare♦	6⅛	...	...	-3.8
371	75½	Naked Wines♦	103	+ ⅛	...	...
7076	4383	**Next**	6640	+ 46	...	12.6
952½	393	**Ocado**	403⅞	+ 9⅝	...	...
28⅞	14⅞	Pendragon	17⅞	+ ⅛	...	5.5
395	257⅝	Pets at Home	379⅞	– 4⅝	...	15.4
227⅜	72⅝	Saga	115	+ ⅛	...	...
289½	169⅞	**Sainsbury's**	278⅛	– 2½	...	23.3
1714	1132½	WH Smith	1650	+ 1	...	...
27¼	14⅝	Sosandar♦	24½	– ½	...	...
1½	1⅛	Stanley Gbbns♦	1½	...	...	-1.6
...	...	Studio Retail#	115	– 2½	...	2.4
142	69½	Ted Baker	109⅞	...	...	...
284½	199⅝	**Tesco**‡	267⅛	+ 1	...	13.6
54	38	Topps Tiles	50½	– ⅜	...	9.1

Technology

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
108	62½	Access Intell♦	78	...	...	...
140	20½	Afeirian plc♦	20½	...	...	3.6
185	126	Alfa Financial	150½	+ 5½	...	23.5
20¼	8⅛	Allied Minds	13⅛	+ 3⅝	...	-1.2
430	321	Aptitude Software	344	+ 1	...	38.6
265	126½	Bango♦	205	+ 5	...	...
42½	21	BATM Adv Coms	24¼	– ¼	...	10.4
26½	14¼	Berkeley Res	20⅝	...	...	-8.8
21½	6¼	Blackbird♦	6¼	...	...	-9.9
1¼	¾	CloudCoCo Group♦	1	...	...	-2.5
2624	1810	Computacenter	2452	– 22	...	15.2
90½	65½	Concurrent Tech♦	67	– ½	...	15.9
12⅜	5⅞	Corero♦	6½	...	...	...
2250	1080	Craneware♦	1400	– 75	...	63.8
3¼	1⅞	Crimson Tide♦	2⅞	– ⅛	...	19.3
24	11¼	CyanConn Hldgs♦	16½	+ ¼	...	...
276½	190	D4t4 Solutions♦	192½	– 2½	...	22.8
⅛	...	DeepMatter Gp♦	...	...	...	-0.1
22½	13	Dillistone Group♦	19½	...	...	-5.6
⅞	⅛	EQTEC♦	⅛	...	...	-2.3
976	599	FDM Group	675	...	...	23.4
16⅜	9	Filtronic♦	13	+ ⅜	...	35.1
2300	1230	First Derivts♦	1850	– 32	...	...
647	281⅛	GB Group♦	297	– 4	...	22.6
180½	136	GreshamTech‡	151½	...	...	...
91	24¼	Ilika♦	42½	– 1	...	...
132½	79½	Ingenta♦	110	+ ½	...	64.3
77	38	Intercede♦	52½	– ½	...	18.1
200	112	Iomart♦	156⅛	– 2⅛	...	17.1
59⅞	23½	IQE♦	24¼	+ ¾	...	...
152½	112½	K3 Business Tch♦	112½	...	...	-1.9
1676⅜	1047½	LG Electronics	1449¼	– 161	...	3.8
¼	⅛	Location Sciences♦	⅛	...	...	-2.8
532	256½	Micro Focus Intl	532	+ ½	...	-5.6
70½	45	MTI Wireless♦	50½	...	...	16.8
55⅜	17¼	Nanoco Gp	18⅞	– ¼	...	...
108½	62½	Netcall♦	99½	...	...	...
52½	35	Northamber♦	38	+ ½	...	...
25¾	10¼	Online Blockchain♦	11¾	...	...	-6.1
112½	76½	Oxford Metrics♦	91½	– ½	...	39.7
9	4½	Parity♦	4¾	+ ¼	...	-7.0
41½	28½	Pennant Intl♦	38	– ½	...	...
634½	390⅛	Playtech	632½	+ 6½	...	6.6
394⅛	322	QinetiQ	378½	– 1⅞	...	29.5
150	20½	RM	85½	– ¼	...	17.1
863⅝	595½	**Sage**	863⅜	– 1⅝	...	33.1
8⅛	5⅛	Seeing Machines♦	5⅞	...	...	...
139	50	Shearwater Grp♦	62	– ½	...	38.4
63	31½	Smartspace S'ware♦	43½	– 1	...	-4.5
1441	1071	Softcat‡	1355	– 14	...	26.5
286½	168	Spirent Comms	184¾	+ ¾	...	17.2
54	24¾	SRT Marine♦	53	– ½	...	...
620	407⅞	Tele. Ericsson	425⅝	+ 2⅛	...	7.7
102½	72½	Touchstar♦	97½	...	...	...
1047½	860	Tracsis♦	965	– 5	...	...
20½	12½	Trakm8♦	16	...	...	...
160	81	Triad Grp	160	...	...	17.5
1380	239	Wandisco♦#	1310	...	...	...
916	415	Water Intel♦	445	...	...	24.4
236	144½	Xaar	178¾	+ ¾	...	...
8¼	⅛	Yourgene♦	⅛	...	...	-0.1
207½	101½	Zoo Digital♦	132	– 3	...	...

Telecoms

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
200½	100	AdEPT Technology♦‡	200½	...	...	...
170⅞	104½	**Airtel Africa**	116¼	+ ¼	...	10.3
196½	112	**BT Group**	147¾	+ 2⅞	...	14.3
87⅝	53½	Currys plc	55⅝	+ ¾	...	2.6
1236	1012	Gamma Comms♦	1158	...	...	20.9
144¼	91¾	Helios Towers	95	+ ½	...	-8.5
2215½	1103½	Just Eat T'away	1383	– 94	...	-2.9
¼	...	Mobile Streams♦	...	...	...	-1.5
2¼	⅝	Mobile Tornado♦	1¾	...	...	...
2500	1600	Telecom Plus	1698	– 44	...	43.5
131⅜	81⅜	**Vodafone**	81⅜	– 1⅜	...	...

Transport

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
340	234	Braemar Ship	300	– 2	...	9.9
535⅛	285	EasyJet	501½	– ⅜	...	-3.1
10⅞	4½	Esken Limited	5	– ⅛	...	-0.2
139½	93½	FirstGroup	116	...	...	27.6
407	251	Fisher (James)	370	...	...	-6.7
173½	93⅜	**International Airlines**	158⅜	+ 1⅝	...	-3.5
332	183½	IDS	201½	– 3⅛	...	2.3
439¼	310⅜	Irish Cont Uts‡	404	...	...	...
...	...	Jet2♦	1238	+ 11	...	-6.6
272½	115⅛	Natl Express	119	+ ¾	...	-7.0
1050	820	Ocean Wilson‡	854	– 2	...	4.3
105	104⅛	Stagecoach	104⅛	...	...	14.7
24	19½	Sutton Harbour♦	22	...	...	...
416	192⅝	Wincanton	232	+ 15	...	6.3
3158	1357½	Wizz Air	2979	+ 33	...	-6.7

Utilities

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
119¾	67⅛	**Centrica**	117¾	+ ½	...	11.8
258	248½	ContourGlobal	251	+ ½	...	28.3
812	473⅝	Drax Group	621½	– ¾	...	46.0
582½	457	Jersey Electricity	477	...	...	9.0
1227	858⅞	**National Grid**	1105	+ 2	...	25.7
9¾	5⅝	OPG Power♦	8⅛	+ ¼	...	5.3
1099	755	Pennon	822	– 4½	...	59.5
⅝	¼	Rurelec♦	½	...	...	-0.4
3148	2213	**Severn Trent**	2812	– 1	...	...
1916½	1428	**SSE**	1870½	+ 2½	...	7.3
1145	828⅛	**United Utilities**	1040½	– ½	...	95.4

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; ☆ figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

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One half of entertainers Hinge and Bracket
George Logan
Page 46

Register

Obituaries

Major General Michael Tillotson

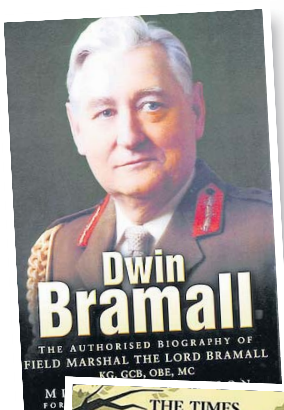
Yorkshire soldier who wrote Field Marshal Lord Bramall's authorised biography and was the Times military obituarist for 30 years

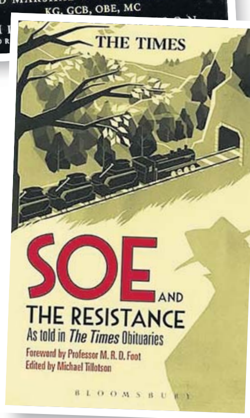
Micky Tillotson liked to say that it was writing obituaries for The Times that kept him alive. For 30 years he recorded the exploits of generals and spies, as well as those in more junior ranks who had won medals for bravery, giving up only two years ago at the age of 93, when his eyesight began to fail.

His phenomenal memory and filing cabinet of a mind, as well as his actual physical files, bulged with biographical and historical detail, garnered from prodigious correspondence and love of military "gossip". As both a seasoned field soldier and a staff officer with a capacity for taking pains, his obituaries, both well informed and well judged, were almost invariably well received.

Henry Michael (Micky) Tillotson was born in Keighley, Yorkshire, in 1928, the elder son of Henry Tillotson, an executive of the Yorkshire Bank, and his wife, May. He trained enthusiastically with the cadet corps at Chesterfield School during the Second World War, in the expectation of eventually seeing action, but the war ended before he could enter the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst.

Commissioned in 1948, he experienced consequences of the war instead, on occupation duties in Austria with 1st Battalion The East Yorkshire Regiment (1 E York). The "East Yorks", despite their leading role on D-Day and some literary distinction from Winifred Holtby's novel *South Riding*, were not a fashionable regiment, but Tillotson considered himself lucky to be commissioned into any Yorkshire regiment at all, as he had not performed especially well at Sandhurst. Though tall, lean and fit he was neither an athlete nor a games player. Nor was he much interested in field sports, and his habit of speaking candidly and without invitation had not endeared him to the staff at the academy. It was his good fortune, however, that the adjutant of 1 E York was Geoffrey Powell, a Green Howards officer who had won the Military Cross at Arnhem with the Parachute Regiment, and who would later work in counterespionage at MI5 and become a noted author and historian. Powell recognised the then Lieutenant Tillotson's potential, made him his assistant and became a mentor.





In 1953, Tillotson, a good French linguist, gained his first experience of action while on attachment to the Foreign Legion in Vietnam, then part of what was known as French Indochina. Advancing across dry paddy fields during an offensive in the northern delta, Tillotson's unit were counterattacked by a regular Viet Minh regiment, supported by machineguns from high ground on the flanks. The Legion suffered badly, but Tillotson was astounded by the officers' refusal to take cover, as they regarded it as dishonourable to show concern for enemy fire. The Viet Minh were only halted by a combination of artillery and air-to-ground fire, and Tillotson watched on grimly as some 40 Legion dead were slung in bundles of ten on light tanks for evacuation. For his own conduct, Tillotson was awarded the Croix de Guerre with palm.

Three years later he married Angela Wadsworth Shaw, an actress. They had a daughter, Miranda, a jewellery expert for a West Country auction house, and two sons: Giles, an art historian who lives in India, and Hugo, a dealer in commercial property.

Not long afterwards, Angela reportedly saved her husband from what might have been a career-ending presentation at the staff college in Camberley, one in which he argued the impracticality of the recently adopted Nato strategy in Europe of "nuclear defence of a river line". Tillotson, who had never served in the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) but whose service elsewhere, including the Malayan Emergency, convinced him that the strategy was dangerous posturing, had not told the directing staff what he intended to say. It almost cost him his position, but Angela was the lead in the all-important pantomime, an annual event attracting a high-ranking external audience, and he was spared the axe.

Undaunted, he wrote an article for an army journal on the same subject, but publication was barred. The marriage was later dissolved and in 2006 he married Sybil Osborne, his companion of many years. She survives him with the children of his first marriage and two stepsons: James, an IT specialist; and William, a writer and poet.

Tillotson returned to the Far East in the Sixties, during Indonesia's "confrontation" with Malaysia, serving on the staff in Singapore. When intelligence suggested that the Indonesian Air Force were about to bomb the island's British base, he organised the dispersal of ammunition and materiel by barge to dumps on the Malay coast. When questioned later about the expense, he replied that he would rather be court-martialled for acting on intelligence than for not acting on intelligence.

In 1967 he returned to regimental duty, in South Arabia, with the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire (PWO), as the East Yorks had become following their amalgamation with the West Yorks in 1958. He was in temporary command of 1PWO following withdrawal of British forces to the port of Aden in what is now Yemen, when the Marxist National Liberation Front attempted to cut off the military and government headquarters from the rest on the besieged colony. A prolonged fire-fight ensued, during which the battalion's radio net was jammed, probably by a Russian trawler in the harbour, but the attempt was foiled. Tillotson was mentioned in dispatches.



Tillotson in Ireland in 1986, when (honorary) colonel of the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire. His books included Dwin Bramall's biography, left

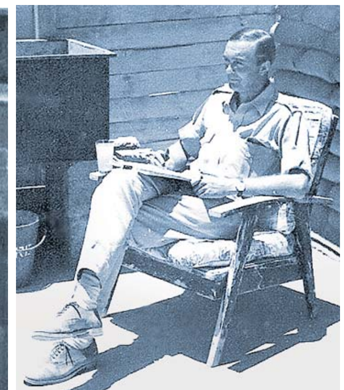
On return to England that year, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel to head the MoD intelligence staff responsible for monitoring the Warsaw Pact, the branch which featured in Dennis Potter's series *Lipstick on Your Collar* (1993), starring Ewan McGregor. The job brought him into contact with the intelligence staffs of Nato allies and the CIA, resulting in Tillotson's lasting interest in the world of espionage.

The following year, Washington invited a UK delegation for a briefing on satellite intelligence, then at an early stage. Expecting at least the director of service intelligence and perhaps a minister, the CIA were nonplussed when Tillotson, still a novice in "G2" matters, turned up instead. Nevertheless, he was well received and on his return to London instigated a joint study, with the CIA, on a Soviet military district of special interest. When Moscow decided to crush the Czechs' Prague Spring in August 1968, UK and US intelligence agencies had plotted the position of every unit poised for the invasion.

Command of 1PWO followed, but opportunity for active service was curtailed by a move to Cyprus. The battalion enjoyed two years in the sun but Tillotson did not make the expected career move to brigade command. Instead he was promoted to colonel as chief of staff in Hong Kong.

This proved fortunate, however, for the commander in Hong Kong was Lieutenant General Sir Edwin (later Field Marshal Lord) Bramall (obit, 2019). "Dwin" Bramall was noted for requiring little advice and being suspicious of any that he did need. However, he came to respect Tillotson's operational experience, eye for detail and willingness to stand his ground, resulting in a lifelong friendship. After two years, Tillotson was advanced to become chief of staff of the United Nations force in Cyprus.

The Turkish invasion in 1974 had left a 125-mile front between the opposing



Greek Cypriot and Turkish armies from the northwest to Famagusta on the east coast. Tillotson was acting force commander when the UN secretary-general Kurt Waldheim visited Cyprus to encourage a final peace settlement. On leaving, Waldheim asked Tillotson to write a paper on how peacekeeping operations could be more efficient and less expensive, and sent him to visit the then four peacekeeping missions. His tours of Lebanon, the Golan Heights and the Sinai Peninsula resulted in the number of national contingents in each force being reduced, with no loss of operational capability.

Later, as deputy director of Army Staff Duties in the MoD, Tillotson was adviser to the cabinet committee dealing with military aid in maintaining essential services during the 1978-79 "winter of discontent". He was promoted major general and chief of staff at the UK Land Forces headquarters in Wilton in 1980. When Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands two years later, a force based on 5th Infantry Brigade was cobbled together to garrison the islands once the Royal Navy and Royal Marines had wrested them backback control. Tillotson persuaded the commander-in-chief, Sir John Stanier, a "BAOR warrior" who had seen no active service, to let him remonstrate with Bramall, by now the chief of the general staff, to allow the brigade a few weeks worth of training first, arguing that they might be needed to fight. Bramall conceded, and 5th Brigade did indeed fight.

His eye for detail and willingness to stand his ground were respected

After leaving the army to become the South East Asia director of international military services, an MoD agency, Tillotson wrote Bramall's authorised biography, *The Fifth Pillar*, and later edited two volumes of obituaries for The Times: *Great Military Lives* and *SOE and the Resistance*. Latterly he lived in Wiltshire, where he enjoyed bird watching and music.

Tillotson remained at heart a regimental soldier, delighting in his Yorkshire soldiers' wit, frankness and stoicism, and from 1979 to 1986 was (honorary) colonel of the PWO. He enjoyed relating the quintessential story of running over a python while driving his "jeep" at night in Malaya. The snake reared up, lashing both sides of the flimsy canopy, causing his radio operator in the back to remark: "Don't stop sir, I think he's all right."

Major General HM Tillotson, CB, CBE, soldier and writer, was born on May 12, 1928. He died on May 17, 2023, aged 95

Register

George Logan

Pianist and one half of Hinge and Bracket, who brought a gentler and more genteel drag comedy act to television in the Seventies

George Logan was needed urgently at the Escort Club in Pimlico, central London. Patrick Fyffe was doing a drag act and his regular pianist had not shown up. Logan arrived with a few minutes to go, but Fyffe was not reassured. "Yeah, yeah, yeah," the young Scot said, glancing briefly at the songs, "I know all those", and disappeared to find a drink.

On stage they impressed each other with their talents and in 1972 Logan clambered into an evening frock to emerge as Dr Evadne Hinge, to Fyffe's Dame Hilda Bracket. "Initially, Patrick was going to play an elderly lady with me as her male sidekick. But during rehearsals we tried a couple of duets and Patrick suggested performing as two ladies," Logan recalled. "I based Dr Hinge on people I knew, mainly middle-aged spinsters from the Joyce Grenfell era."

Hinge and Bracket were elderly and intellectual musicians — Hinge, a brittle and acerbic pianist, Bracket, a flamboyant soprano — who inhabited a genteel interwar world of old-fashioned values. "We saw ourselves as actors playing female roles, we weren't a drag act as such, more like Old Mother Riley — a man, but you believed in his character as a woman," Logan said, adding that they preferred to be thought of as "female impersonators" rather than drag artists.

PICTORIAL PRESS LTD/ALAMY



Logan as Dr Evadne Hinge, left, with Patrick Fyffe's character Dame Hilda Bracket. Logan based his character on "middle-aged spinsters from the Joyce Grenfell era"



Despite appearances their act was sprinkled with double entendres, though never anything blatant or vulgar. "It was there if you wanted to hear it," Logan said.

Their affectionate satire reached the Edinburgh Fringe in 1974, with a late-night show in which these two spinsterish ladies, dressed in black silk evening dress, strolled into the auditorium and offered glasses of sherry to the audience. They then reminisced about their prewar heyday in opera, recounted tales of working with Ivor Novello and Noël Coward, and performed parodies of works by Gilbert and Sullivan.

By the end of the year *An Evening With Hinge and Bracket* had transferred to the West End. The Theatre Upstairs at the Royal Court in London was transformed into Blagdon parish hall, with potted plants, a piano and a leather armchair. "It could have been a very camp evening but it isn't because the style… is gentle and half-affectionate," observed John Higgins in The Times.

They were first seen on television on the music hall variety series *The Good Old Days*, while *The Enchanting World of Hinge and Bracket* ran on BBC Radio 4 from 1976 to 1979. Then came *Hinge and Bracket* on BBC1 from 1978 to 1981 and *Dear Ladies* on BBC2 (1982-84). Their quaint world continued in the long-running Radio 2 series *The Random Jottings of Hinge and Bracket* (1982-89).

Like many such acts, Hinge and Bracket had complete biographies. Dr Evadne Mona Montpellier Hinge, whose muscular 6ft stature and weight of nine and a half stone was conveniently overlooked by audiences, was from an eccentric Scottish family, while Dame Hilda Nemone Bracket came from an old Suffolk family, the daughter of Sir Osbert Bracket, who had left her the family home, where she lived with Hinge and three cats called Iolanthe, Patience and Ida.

From time to time they branched out, sometimes solo, although on other occasions together, such as an adaptation of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the Whitehall Theatre. Pantomime provided another outlet, and in 1983 they appeared in the Royal Opera's televised production of *Die Fledermaus,* starring Kiri Te Kanawa and conducted by Plácido Domingo.

They twice appeared in the Royal Variety Show and were favourites of the late Queen Mother, taking part in her 100th birthday parade in 2000. Some years previously the Princess Royal had requested a short clip for her grandmother, and because they were filming at Cheltenham Ladies' College they recorded a three-minute sketch in which Bracket prevents Hinge from chopping down a tree in the college grounds that the Queen Mother had planted.

As the act evolved the pair discovered that many fans genuinely believed there were two elderly ladies on stage, while off stage the owlish and rather lanky Logan had friends "who have no idea I'm half of Hinge and Bracket". This meant that they were rarely recognised when not in disguise, though Logan recalled being in an antique shop with Fyffe when a woman pointed to his friend and asked if he knew who it was: "She delighted in telling me it was one half of Hinge and Bracket, not realising she was talking to the other half."

George Thomas Logan was born in 1944 at Rutherglen, just south of Glasgow, the son of George Logan, who worked in the vehicle trade, and his wife Georgina (née Rae). He had a younger sister, Jennifer, who also took to the stage. "Although none of our family were religious, our church was very much the social centre of the town and I remember lots of these often unmarried ladies of a certain age with mannerisms I found amusing as a child, and a lot of them crept into Dr Hinge," he told The Scotsman newspaper.

He was educated at Rutherglen Academy and learnt piano at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music, while dreaming of being a concert pianist. A chance meeting at a Glasgow bus station introduced the then 17-year-old Logan to the secret gay scene of the 1960s. "Although I knew I was something, the word gay was not one I would have known," he told the director Liam Rudden.

His new friends found a camp name for him. "As my hair was auburn, they decided on Audrey Hepburn or Audrey Auburn," he said. They took him to a gay bar, where "all the burdens I'd felt, this great pressure to go out with a girl to fit the mould, had gone," he recalled in *A Boy Called Audrey (Pictures from an Exhumation)*, his account of gay life in Glasgow in the Sixties.

Unlike England and Wales, where homosexual acts were decriminalised in 1967, but remained illegal in Scotland until 1980. On one occasion, at a party in the Maryhill area of Glasgow, the police barged in. "We were charged with breach of the peace, just for having a wee dance and a drink in someone's flat," he said. "I was fined £2 and told, 'Don't do it again'." Undeterred, he and a friend, both in drag, went to a show at the Alhambra Theatre in Glasgow, where they were pulled into the manager's office and told to leave and "take up golf".

There was another run-in with the law while Logan was studying music and English at the University of Glasgow. This involved Tommy, his much older boyfriend of the time, and the theft of an American sailor's leather bag. Hauled before the court he was fined £10. "You can picture it, the Bonnie and Clyde of Glasgow and a bloody sailor's handbag," he laughed.

Logan, a lifelong smoker, a late-night enthusiast and in his younger days a moderate to heavy drinker, eventually dropped out of university and headed

'I knew I was something but the word gay is not one I would have known'

to London, where he landed a job playing piano in a Marylebone pub, before moving on to greater things.

When a London gay bar needed a pianist soon after Logan moved to the city he was offered £2 to play, but realised that the acts he was accompanying were being paid four times as much for gags he knew inside out. "I thought, I could do that and play the piano at the same time and keep the whole ten quid to myself," he said.

After Fyffe died (obituary, May 14, 2002), Logan decided that there could be no Hinge without Bracket, although in 2016 he reprised the character in Louis Mander's *The Dowager's Oyster*, a flapper-style comedy operetta. He appeared in pantomime and worked in a bookshop in Hertford before moving to France, where he ran a guesthouse near the medieval town of Le Dorat with his partner Louie Perone, who survives him; they married in 2019 after 20 years together. Logan also took up writing and in 2014 published *The Naked Doctor*, an entertaining account of the early life of Dr Evadne Hinge, who would go on to amuse and entertain for decades.

George Logan (Dr Evadne Hinge), pianist and entertainer, was born on July 7, 1944. He died of undisclosed causes on May 21, 2023, aged 78

Lives remembered

Wyndham Lloyd-Davies



Tim Philp writes: Wyndham Lloyd-Davies (obituary, May 16) was a mentor, supporter and friend throughout my urological career. As a medical student attached to his firm in the early 1970s, at one of the weekly clinical meetings, Wyndham was presenting a case involving a complex operation to remove stones from a patient's kidney when he encountered an unusual problem: "I put my finger into the opened renal pelvis and the only feeling I can liken it to was putting one's finger into a trout's mouth!" This produced general laughter but the acerbic general surgeon chairing the session called for a show of hands from colleagues with the experience of feeling the inside of a trout's mouth. No hands were raised, but everyone agreed they could imagine what he meant.

Lord Brooke of Sutton Mandeville



Hugh Chevallier, co-editor, Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, writes: In 2000, John Major had agreed to speak at the annual Wisden dinner, but had to cry off with a bad back. The Almanack editor, Matthew Engel, was on a tour of Zimbabwe and unreachable, so it fell to a colleague and me to find a last-minute replacement. Mercifully, Peter Brooke was undaunted at facing one of the country's most discerning audiences. Engel, however, perhaps aware of Brooke's "reputation for having talents of a moderate order" (obituary, May 16), was worried. He need not have been. The two shared a passion for Northamptonshire County Cricket Club, and Brooke was as erudite as he was entertaining. Eight years after Brooke — Major's choice as Speaker of the House of Commons — had lost out to Betty Boothroyd, Major had inadvertently proved instrumental in getting Brooke a different speaking role, if one with a similarly tricky audience.

Barbara Young



Tom Stubbs writes: While Barbara Young (obituary, May 20) may be best known for her portrayal of the ruthless Agrippinilla in *I, Claudius*, she was a constant presence in television drama of various genres.

She had a notable role in a 1973 episode of *Crown Court* — repeated only days after her death — playing Sheila Telfer, the wife of a night club owner who was beaten up and hospitalised for refusing to pay protection money to the villainous Curl brothers. Entering the witness stand in a leopard-skin coat (possibly the same one to which her daughter refers in her description of her mother as a "bohemian, leopard-skin-wearing, Gauloise-smoking actress"), she looked in bold defiance at the accused in the dock, while bristling like a big cat in its fur. In answering a question from the judge, she started her reply, as if explaining something to someone who would have difficulty in understanding the language and customs of the criminal underworld: "See, it's like this, your honour".

@ If you would like to add a personal view or recollection to a published obituary, you can send your contribution by post to Times Obituaries, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF, or by email to **tributes@thetimes.co.uk**

Court Circular

Buckingham Palace
22nd May, 2023
The King and Queen this evening visited the Chelsea Flower Show of the Royal Horticultural Society in the Gardens of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

Kensington Palace
22nd May, 2023
The Princess of Wales this afternoon attended a Children's Picnic at the Chelsea Flower Show of the Royal Horticultural Society in the Gardens of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, London SW3.

St James's Palace
22nd May, 2023
The Duke of Edinburgh this morning departed from Heathrow Airport, London, for Germany and, having been received upon arrival at Berlin-Brandenburg Airport by His Majesty's Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany (Her Excellency Mrs Jill Gallard), subsequently undertook engagements in Berlin.

His Royal Highness this afternoon attended a Lunch with Members of the Bundestag at the British Embassy.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation, later visited Schule am Schillerpark and attended a Roundtable Discussion.

His Royal Highness, Patron, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation, afterwards attended a Reception at James-Simon-Galerie, the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, for young people who have achieved the Bronze, Silver and Gold Standard in the Award.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation, this evening attended a Dinner at the Residence.

Mr Jason Keen is in attendance.

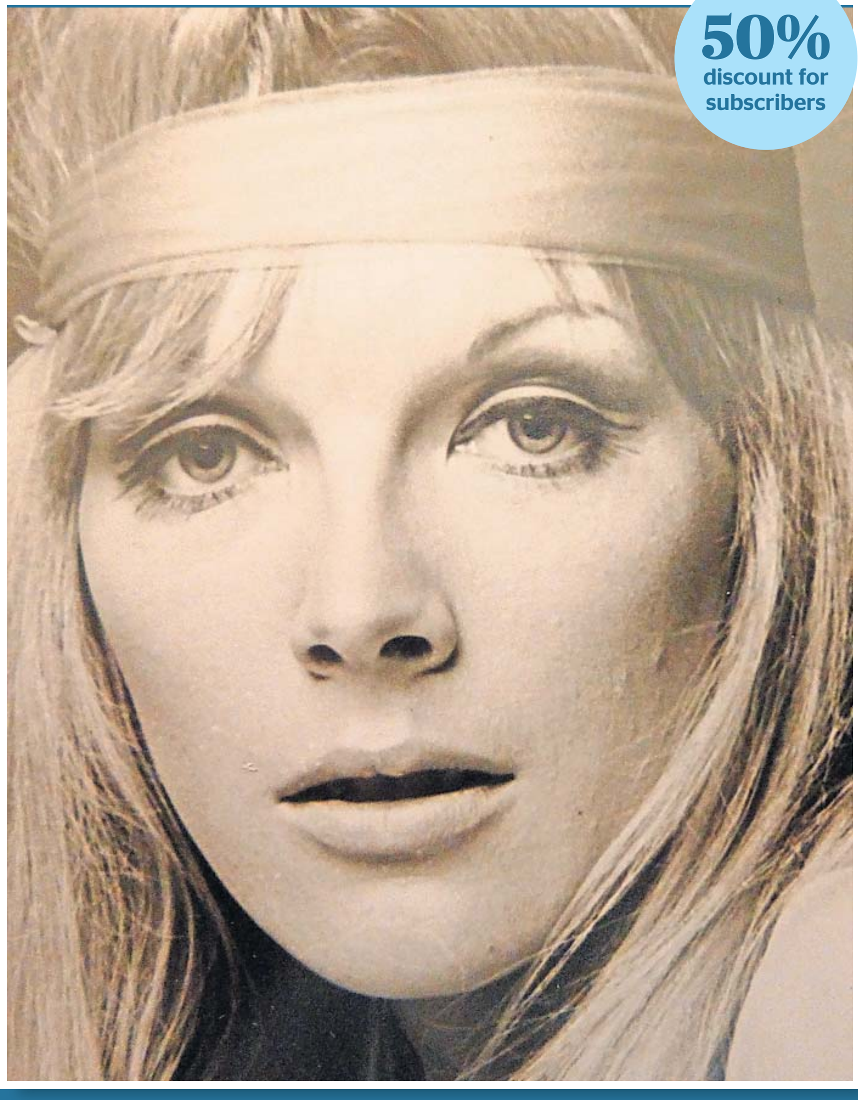
St James's Palace
22nd May, 2023
The Princess Royal this morning arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, from Canada.

Mr Charles Davies was in attendance.

Kensington Palace
22nd May, 2023
The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester this evening visited the Chelsea Flower Show of the Royal Horticultural Society in the Gardens of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, London SW3.

St James's Palace
22nd May, 2023
Princess Alexandra this evening visited the Chelsea Flower Show of the Royal Horticultural Society in the Gardens of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, London SW3.

Readers' Lives



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GABY BEDFORD, WHO DIED AGED 76, FEATURED IN THE TIMES ON NOVEMBER, 23, 2019

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THE TIMES

Births, Marriages and Deaths

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THEN you will watch every step I take, but you will not keep track of my sins. You will forgive them and put them away; you will wipe out all the wrongs I have done.
Job 14.16-17 (GNB)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

Births

DOULAI
on 8th April 2023 to Kristin (née True) and Amin, a daughter, Evelyn Felicity, sister to Audrey, Verity and Benjamin, and a blessing of love and joy to her family.

MACFARLANE on 3rd May 2023 to Lavinia (née Spurr) and Cranley, a daughter, Lucia Mercedes Susanna, sister to Laurie.

SYMONDSON on 5th May 2023 to Amber (née de Savary) and Angus, a son, Otto John de Savary, brother to Siena.

Deaths

BLUMER Anthony John Maitland OBE died peacefully at home on April 19th 2023. Much loved by all his family. A memorial service will be held later in the year.

BRADLEY Professor Ronald Duncan died on 26th April 2023, aged 93. Loving husband of Betty for 71 years. Father of Mandy, Nessa and Giles and proud grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral ceremony on 31st May 2023 at 3pm at Bluebell Cemetery, Old London Road, Halstead, Kent, TN14 7AE. Family flowers only please. Donations, if wished, to the Intensive Care Unit, St Thomas' Hospital. The ceremony will be streamed. Details for either on request. Inquiries: giles.bradley1@gmail.com or mandy.rushton@googlemail.com.

CALVERT John Raymond died peacefully on 14th May 2023, aged 85. All inquiries to 01527 547777.

COLVILLE OF CULROSS Elizabeth (née Webb-Bowen) died on 16th May 2023, aged 88. Beloved mother and grandmother. Private cremation. Funeral date to be announced. Donations to Alzheimer's Society, Scott Lodge, Plymouth PL2 3DU.

CÉRÈVENKA Jan died on 17th May 2023, aged 91. Conductor and musical director of Worthing Philharmonic Orchestra [1968-96]; conductor of the New World Show Orchestra and the New World Theatre Orchestra.

HUNTSMAN Peter William, formerly principal of the College of Estate Management, Reading University, died peacefully on 20th April 2023, aged 87. A beloved husband of the late Cicely, loving father of Fiona and Mark and proud grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral service to take place at St Mary Magdalene Church, Rusper at 12.45pm on Wednesday 7th June. For further details please contact Freeman Brothers 01403 254590 or www.freemanbrothers.co.uk.

LEWIS Richard died peacefully on 29th April 2023, aged 95. Much-loved husband of Chris, dear father of Sarah, David and Christoff and dearly loved by grandchildren Helena, William, George and Laurie. Richard will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Service of thanksgiving at noon on 26th September 2023 at St Bartholomew's Church, Leigh, Surrey RH2 8NJ. No flowers please.

LLOYD WILLIAMS Peter on 16th May 2023, aged 90. Much-loved husband of Andy, hugely missed by her, and their two sons, their families, and five grandchildren. Funeral at St Nicholas', Bathampton, noon on 2nd June.

MILES Kenneth Norman died peacefully on 11th May 2023, aged 93, in Oxford. Much-loved father of Nicholas and Caroline, grandfather of Ben, Katherine, Lucy, Katie and Sophie and step-grandfather of Jon and Jenny. A wonderful father-in-law to Geoffrey. A life well-lived and well-loved, he will be greatly missed. Funeral 10th June, 11am, at North Oxfordshire Crematorium.

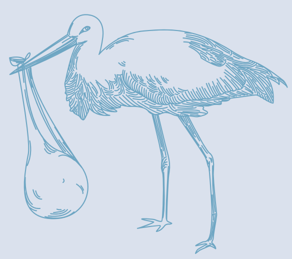
PRICE Virginia Yvonne (née Mostyn) died on 22nd April 2023 at the Churchill Hospital, Headington. Memorial service on Tuesday 27th June at 4pm, St Mary Magdalene Church, Wardington, Banbury, OX17 1RS. Please notify jrkprice@outlook.com if intending to come.

WAKEFIELD
Sir Norman Edward died peacefully on 8th May 2023, aged 93, at The Dower House Nursing Home, Winchester. Beloved husband of Lady Denise (D) and precious father of Jennifer, Caroline, Matthew, Amanda, Emma, and Christian and much loved by his fourteen grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren. A Memorial service in celebration of Norman's life will be held at St Mary's Church, Kings Worthy, Winchester, SO23 7QN on Monday 5th June at 14.30 pm. No flowers please but donations, if desired, to The Nelson Trust can be made at www.sirnormanwakefield.muchloved.com. Richard Steel & Partners. Tel: 01962 798789.

WILKINSON
His Honour Simon Rennie Wilkinson died peacefully on 5th May 2023 at Kingston Hospital, aged 79. Much-loved husband of Elly and stepfather to Harriet and Emily, brother to Anna and Virgie, uncle, great-uncle, godfather, friend, colleague, and cherished member of his community. The funeral is to be held at St Paul's Church, Bedford Street, London, WC2E 9ED on Tuesday 30th May at noon. Family flowers only please. In remembrance of Simon, the family ask that donations are made to Kingston Hospital Charity in gratitude of the exemplary care he received on the Bronte Ward. Donations can be made at simon-wilkinson.muchloved.com.

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Legal Notices

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS OF ENGLAND AND WALES
COMPANIES COURT (CH D)
IN THE MATTER OF LET'S EXPLORE GROUP PLC (COMPANY NUMBER 10964782)
(THE "COMPANY")
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice dated 25 April 2023 confirming the reduction of the share premium account of the Company and a statement of capital recording the share capital of the Company immediately following the reduction of the share premium account taking effect were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 9 May 2023.
DATED this 23rd day of May 2023
Freeths LLP Solicitors
1 Vine Street
Mayfair
London
W1J 0AH
Tel: +44 (0) 797 388 6906
DX 37209 Piccadilly
Ref: JS/88101755/17
Solicitors for the above-named Company

**IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
VIRGIN ISLANDS
(COMMERCIAL DIVISION)
CLAIM NO. BVIHCOM 2023/0046
IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT, 2003
(the "Act")
AND
IN THE MATTER OF AMIRA NATURE FOODS LTD**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an application for the appointment of liquidators, David James Bennett and John Gerard Skelton of Grant Thornton (British Virgin Islands) Limited, 171 Main Street, The Barracks 2 nd Floor, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, licensed insolvency practitioners under the Act, to AMIRA NATURE FOODS LTD (Company Number 1696728) (the "Company"), whose registered office is located at Intertrust Corporate Services (BVI) Limited, Ritter House, Wickhams Cay II, Road Town, Tortola VG1110 in the British Virgin Islands (the "Application"), was presented to the High Court of Justice, Commercial Division on the 14th day of March 2023 by BlackLion Law LLP (trading as ClaimLion Law) (the "Applicant"). The Applicant's registered office is located at Berkeley Square House, Berkeley Square, London W1J 6BD.
Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the making of an order on the Application may appear at the hearing at the Commercial Court, Road Town, Tortola in the British Virgin Islands on Monday the 12th day of June, 2023 at a time to be specified in the final Commercial Court List by themselves or by their Counsel for the purpose. A copy of the Application will be furnished by the undersigned to any creditor, director or member of the Company requiring the same on payment of the regulated charge.
Note: Any person intending to appear on the hearing of the Application (whether to support or oppose it) must give notice of intention to do so to the Applicant or its legal practitioners in accordance with Rule 162 of the Insolvency Rules, 2005 by no later than 16.00 hours (British Virgin Islands time) on the business day before the date fixed for the hearing of the Application.
Dated: 18 May 2023
Campbells
Legal Practitioners for the Applicant
Floor 4, Banco Popular Building
PO Box 4541,
Road Town, Tortola,
VG1110, British Virgin Islands
Tel: +1 (284) 494 2423

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Day 1 **Fly from London to Bordeaux, France>**
Upon arrival, transfer to your luxurious ***Scenic Space-Ship*** for your 10 night all-inclusive river cruise (D)

Day 2 **Bordeaux – Saint-Émilion, France**
On board, try a French cooking class, or relax in the on board Salt Therapy Lounge++. Later, arrive in Saint-Émilion to take in all its beauty as well as explore the underground catacombs of the Monolithic Church (B, L, D)

Day 3 **Libourne – Paulliac, France** ★Wine Tasting★
Enjoy a guided tour of Libourne. Alternatively, explore the exclusive estate of Château Siaurac with a wine tasting, or view the eclectic city of Bergerac (B, L, D)

Day 4 **Médoc, France** ★Wine Tasting★
Travel the scenic Médoc wine route and sample the region's finest at a local estate, or cycle to a local Château for a wine tasting

★Scenic Enrich×: Soak in the ambiance of Château d'Agassac as live musicians perform classical masterpieces, exclusive to guests (B, L, D)

Day 5 **Pauillac – Cadillac, France**
Today, cruise the Garonne River into Cadillac. Tonight, local entertainers perform live for your exclusive enjoyment (B, L, D)

Day 6 **Cadillac, France** ★Wine Tasting★
Venture into the Sauternes region for a delicious wine tasting at the prestigious Château de Rayne Vigneau, or cycle through Sauternes to the Grand Cru Classé estate of Lafaurie Peyraguey for a tasting. Visit Roquetaillade Castle, alternatively, visit a truffle farm or perhaps visit Château Malromé, the family home of well known artist, Toulouse Lautrec (B, L, D)

Day 7 **Bordeaux, France**
Shop with a Chef at a local food market or enjoy a guided tour of Bordeaux, or if you're feeling more active, you may choose to cycle the historic regions of the city. Back on board, enjoy a tasting of fresh oysters delivered straight from the waters of Arcachon Bay

★Scenic Enrich×: During exclusive after-hours access be welcomed with a glass of Champagne as you visit Les Bassins de Lumières, Bordeaux's former submarine base which has been transformed into an impressive digital art installation (B, L, D)

Day 8 **Arcachon – Bourg, France**
Journey to Arcachon and join a walking tour including a visit to the local markets, or stay in Bordeaux and take a tram to the Cité du Vin museum. Alternatively, climb Dune du Pilat, Europe's largest sand dune (B, L, D)

Day 9 **Cognac, France**
Discover the Carriages Museum in the enchanting Bourg Castle, or spend a full day exploring Cognac. **Afterwards, enjoy a tasting at the acclaimed property of Rémy Martin** (B, L, D)

Day 10 **Blaye – Bordeaux, France**
Enjoy a guided walking tour, or take a more active walk through the Citadel of Blaye. Or, explore the stunning beauty of the fairytale Château de La Roche Courbon on a guided tour. Alternatively, join a 30km roundtrip cycle along the Captain's Road (B, L, D)

Day 11 **Bordeaux, France**
After breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport for your return flight back to London> (B)

Meals are included as stated: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner.
Itinerary is based on 17th August 2023 departure date

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Weather

Today Cloudy and damp in the far northwest, mostly dry elsewhere with sunny periods. Max 21C (70F), min 3C (37F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder *=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C midday yesterday		Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	Sun hr*
Aberdeen	13	C	0.2	0.0
Aberporth	12	C	0.0	0.7
Anglesey	13	S	0.0	6.0
Aviemore	13	PC	3.8	0.7
Barnstaple	18	S	0.0	**
Bedford	15	C	0.0	**
Belfast	14	PC	0.0	2.9
Birmingham	17	M	0.0	**
Bournemouth	17	C	0.0	4.0
Bridlington	14	C	0.0	**
Bristol	19	S	0.0	7.8
Camborne	16	S	0.0	0.0
Cardiff	20	S	0.0	0.0
Edinburgh	15	C	0.8	0.0
Eskdalemuir	16	B	0.0	1.1
Glasgow	15	S	0.6	0.1
Hereford	18	S	0.0	**
Herstmonceux	18	C	0.0	3.5
Ipswich	16	C	0.0	5.8
Isle of Man	13	PC	0.0	4.1
Isle of Wight	16	C	0.0	**
Jersey	15	S	0.0	2.0
Keswick	15	C	0.0	**
Kinloss	13	C	1.8	0.0
Leeds	19	PC	0.0	**
Lerwick	10	C	0.0	5.5
Leuchars	10	D	0.0	0.0
Lincoln	15	C	0.0	2.0
Liverpool	15	PC	0.0	**
London	15	C	0.0	2.2
Lyneham	17	PC	0.0	7.0
Manchester	19	PC	0.0	0.0
Margate	16	C	0.0	6.7
Milford Haven	16	PC	0.0	**
Newcastle	17	PC	0.0	**
Nottingham	17	C	0.0	3.1
Orkney	12	B	0.4	5.7
Oxford	16	C	0.0	**
Plymouth	21	S	0.0	**
Portland	17	C	0.0	**
Scilly, St Mary's	15	PC	0.0	**
Shoreham	16	C	0.0	2.7
Shrewsbury	16	PC	0.0	2.0
Snowdonia	15	PC	0.0	**
Southend	16	C	0.0	4.8
South Uist	13	PC	0.0	**
Stornoway	11	C	0.0	7.6
Tiree	13	PC	0.0	2.4
Whitehaven	17	S	0.0	3.7
Wick	13	C	0.8	**
Yeovilton	18	C	0.0	5.0

The world

All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	21	PC	Madeira	19	PC
Amsterdam	23	PC	Madrid	21	S
Athens	21	PC	Malaga	16	B
Auckland	15	S	Mallorca	23	PC
Bahrain	38	S	Malta	20	B
Bangkok	35	PC	Melbourne	13	B
Barbados	30	PC	Mexico City	25	B
Barcelona	21	PC	Miami	28	R
Beijing	28	S	Milan	24	S
Beirut	28	S	Mombasa	26	SH
Belgrade	25	S	Montreal	20	B
Berlin	25	S	Moscow	16	PC
Bermuda	25	B	Mumbai	33	S
Bordeaux	21	C	Munich	23	S
Brussels	16	M	Nairobi	25	PC
Bucharest	23	S	Naples	25	S
Budapest	22	S	New Orleans	27	S
Buenos Aires	16	D	New York	21	B
Cairo	30	S	Nice	24	PC
Calcutta	36	S	Nicosia	26	PC
Canberra	10	S	Oslo	22	S
Cape Town	20	S	Paris	21	PC
Chicago	26	PC	Perth	22	S
Copenhagen	22	S	Prague	24	PC
Corfu	24	PC	Reykjavik	8	B
Delhi	41	S	Riga	21	S
Dubai	38	S	Rio de Janeiro	25	S
Dublin	15	PC	Riyadh	38	S
Faro	20	PC	Rome	23	S
Florence	26	PC	San Francisco	19	B
Frankfurt	26	S	Santiago	**	**
Geneva	24	PC	São Paulo	21	S
Gibraltar	19	SH	Seoul	22	PC
Helsinki	20	S	Seychelles	30	PC
Hong Kong	32	PC	Singapore	32	B
Honolulu	30	B	St Petersburg	19	B
Istanbul	21	S	Stockholm	20	S
Jerusalem	29	S	Sydney	17	S
Johannesburg	18	S	Tel Aviv	29	S
Kuala Lumpur	32	PC	Tenerife	23	PC
Kyiv	**	**	Tokyo	25	PC
Lanzarote	24	PC	Vancouver	17	B
Las Palmas	24	PC	Venice	26	S
Lima	22	DU	Vienna	25	PC
Lisbon	23	S	Warsaw	21	S
Los Angeles	19	B	Washington	24	PC
Luxor	38	S	Zurich	24	PC

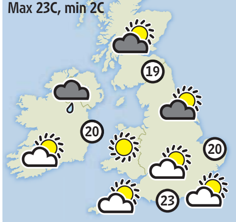
Five days ahead

Often cloudy and damp in the northwest, mostly dry with plenty of sunshine elsewhere

Tomorrow

Cloudy in northern Ireland and southern Scotland with a few spots of rain and drizzle, otherwise a dry day with sunny spells.

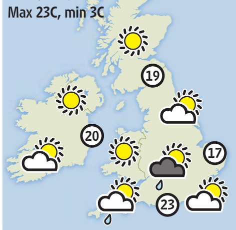
Max 23C, min 2C



Thursday

Sunny periods with the risk of an isolated shower in central and southern England. A dry day elsewhere with plenty of sunshine.

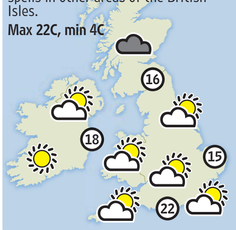
Max 23C, min 3C



Friday

A mostly cloudy day across Scotland with the risk of a few spots of rain in the Northern Isles. Dry with sunny spells in other areas of the British Isles.

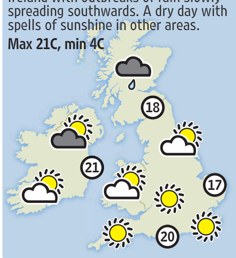
Max 22C, min 4C



Saturday

Cloudy in Scotland and Northern Ireland with outbreaks of rain slowly spreading southwards. A dry day with spells of sunshine in other areas.

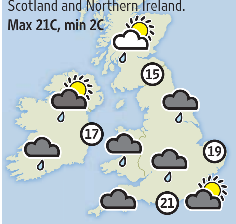
Max 21C, min 4C



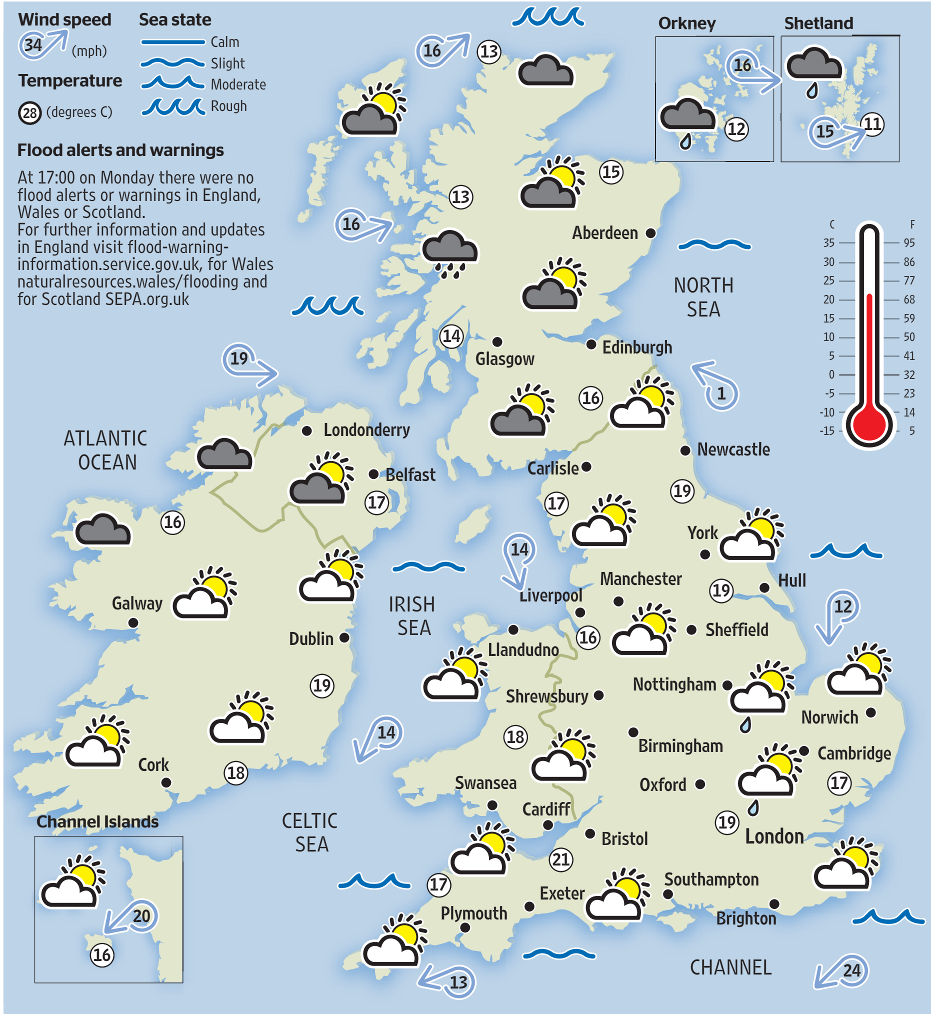
Sunday

Thick cloud and patchy rain will spread southwards across England, Wales and southern Ireland. Sunny periods with the risk of an isolated shower in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Max 21C, min 2C



The Times weather page is provided by WeatherQuest



Flood alerts and warnings

At 17:00 on Monday there were no flood alerts or warnings in England, Wales or Scotland.
For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk

General situation: Cloudy in the northwest with a few spots of drizzle. Mostly dry elsewhere with sunny periods.

Mids, Cen N Eng, E Eng: Sunny periods with the risk of an isolated shower in the late afternoon. Light northerly winds. Maximum 21C (70F), minimum 5C (41F).

London, SE Eng, E Anglia, Cen S Eng, SW Eng, Channel Is: A dry day with spells of sunshine, which may be hazy at times. Light to moderate northeasterly winds. Maximum 20C (68F), minimum 4C (39F).

Wales, NW Eng, Lake District, NE Eng, IoM, SW Scotland, Borders, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen: A dry day with hazy spells of sunshine. Cloud will build in southern and eastern Scotland during the afternoon. Light to moderate northwesterly winds. Maximum 21C (70F), minimum 3C (37F).

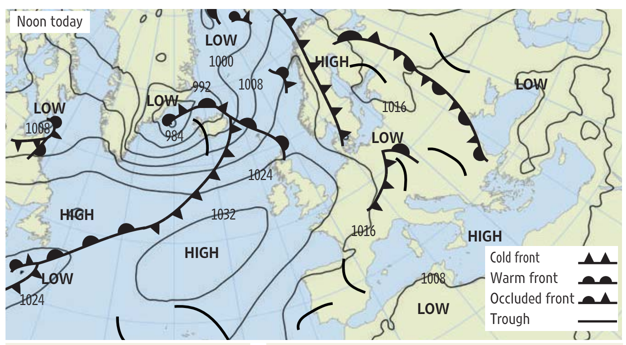
Republic of Ireland, N Ireland: Largely cloudy in the northwest with the risk of some drizzle. Dry with hazy sunny spells elsewhere. Gentle north or northwesterly winds. Maximum 19C (66F), minimum 3C (37F).

Cen Highland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, N Isles: A largely cloudy day with the risk of a few spots of light rain and drizzle. Turning brighter in the Western Isles later in the afternoon. Gentle to fresh west or southwesterly winds. Maximum 16C (61F), minimum 4C (39F).

Tides

Tidal predictions. Heights in metres

Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	04:13	3.9	16:48	3.7
Avonmouth	10:15	11.8	22:24	11.7
Belfast	02:05	3.5	14:29	3.1
Cardiff	10:03	11.0	22:11	11.0
Devonport	08:40	4.9	20:47	5.1
Dover	02:02	6.3	14:23	6.3
Dublin	02:19	3.8	14:52	3.6
Falmouth	08:14	4.6	20:26	4.8
Greenock	03:10	3.5	15:48	3.1
Harwich	02:35	3.8	14:48	3.7
Holyhead	01:08	5.2	13:34	4.9
Hull	09:10	6.8	21:42	6.5
Leith	05:38	5.1	18:06	5.0
Liverpool	01:51	8.7	14:15	8.4
London Bridge	04:45	7.0	16:59	6.5
Lowestoft	--:--	--	12:33	2.4
Milford Haven	09:16	6.2	21:29	6.2
Morecambe	02:01	8.7	14:26	8.3
Newhaven	01:52	6.3	14:20	6.1
Newquay	08:08	6.1	20:21	6.2
Oban	08:39	3.4	20:47	3.6
Penzance	07:41	4.9	19:59	5.0
Portsmouth	02:17	4.4	14:53	4.4
Shoreham	02:02	5.8	14:30	5.8
Southampton	01:57	4.3	16:35	4.2
Swansea	09:22	8.5	21:32	8.5
Tees	06:34	5.1	19:06	4.9
Weymouth	09:40	1.7	21:51	1.9



Synoptic situation

High pressure remains largely in control of the weather over the British Isles bringing largely settled conditions with plenty of sunshine. A warm front associated with an area of low pressure near Iceland will track across Scotland and Northern Ireland bringing thick cloud and a few spots of light rain and drizzle, especially over the western highlands of Scotland.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

Warmest: Cardiff, 23.2C
Coldest: Ravensworth, North Yorkshire, 0.2C
Wettest: Tyndrum, Perthshire, 4.2mm
Sunniest: Almondsbury, 7.8hrs*

Sun and moon

For Greenwich
Sun rises: 04.57
Sun sets: 20.55
Moon rises: 07.16
Moon sets: 01.00 Wed
First Quarter: May 27

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	22:05-04:03
Belfast	22:05-04:34
Birmingham	21:38-04:29
Cardiff	21:38-04:39
Exeter	21:36-04:44
Glasgow	22:06-04:20
Liverpool	21:47-04:28
London	21:26-04:26
Manchester	21:44-04:25
Newcastle	21:50-04:14
Norwich	21:26-04:15
Penzance	21:41-04:54
Sheffield	21:41-04:22

Weather Eye

Paul Simons



The bogong moth of Australia is an unassuming brown-grey coloured insect that has been blessed with extraordinary navigation skills. Each spring, billions of these moths embark on an epic migration, from their breeding grounds in eastern Australia to high-altitude caves, some located at 2,150m, in the cool Snowy Mountains in New South Wales. The journey covers over 1,000km, with the moths aiming to escape the blazing heat of the Australian summer.

Not only is their flight long and hazardous, with a high risk of being eaten by predators, but they travel in the dark of night without ever having previously flown the route and without guidance from their parents, which die before their offspring emerge as adults. The migration is so spectacular and vast that there can be clouds of them in flight, and they have even been known to flood Canberra and invade the national Parliament House. At the end of a summer spent in their cool caves the moths return home to breed before they also die.

Establishing how the bogong moth makes such an astonishing journey remained a mystery for a long time. However, painstaking research, conducted over many years, has revealed that the moths navigate using the Earth's magnetic field, the stars in the night sky, and even a sense of smell to home in on the caves, perhaps identifying the odour of moths from previous years.

After the long hot years of drought in southeast Australia caused by bouts of the El Niño effect between 2018 and 2019, the moths' population collapsed to the point of near-extinction. However, after three successive years of the counterpart, La Niña, which caused heavy rains and devastating floods in Australia, the population of the moths has nearly recovered.

The bogong also play a crucial role in their environment's ecology. Along their route they pollinate flowers and are a vital food source for native animals, including ravens, lizards and the critically-endangered mountain pygmy possum.

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Sport

SCOTT TAETSCH/PGA OF AMERICA/GETTY IMAGES



Block, enjoying his 15 minutes of fame, above, had to be told fives times by McIlroy, inset, that he had made a hole in one

Club pro turns major into a Block party

From shank on Friday to Sunday's hole in one, dog-loving Californian was a joy to watch, writes **Rick Broadbent**

It has been easy to lose perspective in golf's great power squabble. Beyond the remainers and leavers, the bots and the bickering, Brooks Koepka moved to a new echelon at the US PGA Championship, but the most uplifting, unifying story came from a 46-year-old man who was missing his dog.

Koepka's win at Oak Hill takes him to five majors. Only 19 other players have managed that and he is the first born after 1975. As he has jumped to LIV Golf, this one had added significance. "Any good?" tweeted Ian Poulter, in pointed reference to critics of the Saudi-backed circuit.

Back from an injury that made him wonder if he would ever regain these heights, it is hard to think that, at 33, Koepka will not add more. Another and he will match Nick Faldo, Phil Mickelson and Lee Trevino. After that you are into Arnold Palmer and Bobby Jones territory. Inevitably, this enhanced status will add to the pressure for LIV events to get world-ranking points and for their players to be allowed to take part in the Ryder Cup.



Koepka's win at Oak Hill takes him to five majors

Yet the story that truly captured the imagination concerned an emotional club pro who works at a public golf course at Mission Viejo in California. Michael Block has been living his dream this week. We know this because he told us while in tears.

One of the quirks of the US PGA Championship is the batch of club pros that get to play each year — the PGA of America has traditionally always let some in via a qualifying system. Block produced the best display of any of them for 37 years. He also got a hole in one on the 15th in his final round and made a par on the last to finish tied for 15th; he will be back next year.

It was, though, the sheer love of the moment that enthralled. "I'm like the new John Daly, but I don't have a mullet and I'm not quite as big as him yet," Block said after his round of 71. "I'm just a club professional. I work, I have fun, I have a couple of boys that I play golf with. I have a great wife, I have great friends, I live the normal life.

"I love being at home, I love sitting in my back yard. My best friend in the world is my dog; I miss him so much it's ridiculous."

Since LIV Golf arrived there has been a lot of talk about growing the game, but seeing a man hit a hacker's shank in a major and warm up for his final round with Rory McIlroy by going to the nearby pub is a brass tacks way to nurture the grassroots. Block explained just what golf means to him. "I live it, breathe it," he said. "I made sure of one thing in my life — that I was going to drive to a golf course every day, whether it was as a caddie or an on-site service kid, or as an assistant pro.

"The one thing in the world that makes me cry is golf. That puts into context how much I love the game. It's everything to me. Whether I'm cleaning shoes or running things, I'm going to go to the course to live my dream."

McIlroy was the one who informed a disbelieving Block that he had made his hole in one: "He had to tell me five times." The four-times major winner hugged Block there, and again on the 18th green. McIlroy also signed a bib for the American's caddie and told Block's wife that her husband was amazing.

"Before you know it, you're 60 years old and retired and looking back at the videos and you remember that was the best week of your life," Block said. "And more than likely this is going to be the best week of my life."

Each of his meetings with the media at Oak Hill was a treat. He talked of that shank on Friday and his fear that he might have killed someone; of how he loves kids — and dogs — and "has a really big issue" with not high-fiving junior spectators, and of his wife not having seen him cry for seven years.

Most majors

By currently active players

Player	Majors
Tiger Woods	15
Phil Mickelson	6
Brooks Koepka	5
Rory McIlroy	4
Padraig Harrington	3
Jordan Spieth	3

Block also had a vague premonition that he was going to get his 15 minutes of fame. "I had this intuition that it was going to happen," he said. "I always saw myself coming down the stretch with Tiger Woods. I was like, 'I'm going to do it, even if I'm 46 or whatever.' It just happened to be that I was in the PGA Championship and I had McIlroy."

For the record, he won $288,333 (£232,000) for his performance, but he had already said that money did not matter. "I have no pressure, I have a job and a pay cheque waiting for me at my club," he said. "I don't have to make putts to pay for my mortgage. This is a beautiful thing I have here."

It was a nice diversion from the lingering LIV questions. Zach Johnson, the United States Ryder Cup captain, did little to clarify matters and sounded almost perplexed when it was suggested that he could travel to LIV events to watch the likes of Koepka, Bryson DeChambeau and Dustin Johnson.

"Are you expecting me to go to LIV events and spectate?" he said. Indeed, he said it would be "extremely inappropriate" given the bulk of the team will come from the PGA Tour. Wherever you stand on LIV, it seems stones are being left unturned in the States.

Koepka, meanwhile, wanted to keep the win for himself. Had he spoken to the LIV chief executive, Greg Norman? "I called my wife and that's it," he said. "That's the only person I'm really interested in talking to."



Hexham

Thunderer

5.50 Tara Brooch
6.20 Harper Valley
6.50 Doyens De Ante
7.20 Balkalin
7.50 Kildrum
8.20 First Revolution
8.50 Chemical Warfare

Going: good — **Sky Sports Racing**

5.50 Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle (£4,779: 2m 7f) (11)

1 F421- **MR HAILSTONE** 38 Dr R Newland 7-12-0 **C Leonard**
2 000-2 **VELASCO** 17 (P,T) S Corbett 7-11-11 **T Gillard**
3 336-3 **SOMETHING GOLDEN** 17 I Jardine 7-11-3 **D Johnston (3)**
4 F/33- **GET PHAR** 300 D Brooke 7-11-2 **B Lynn**
5 5005- **JIMS APPLE** 60 (P,T) J Ewart 7-11-2 **E Austin**
6 040-4 **TARA BROOCH** 17 M Walford 5-10-10 **T Midgley**
7 246-3 **DR SHIROCCO** 13 S Forster 8-10-9 **P W Wadge**
8 000P- **IMPERIAL LORD** 55 (T) J Coulson 7-10-6 **Toby Wynne**
9 3/02- **THE LONGEST DAY** 27 (P,T) Mrs S Leech 7-10-6 **L Harrison**
10 /0P0- **ELUSIVE RED** 45 (P) F Murtagh 9-10-3 **L Murtagh**
11 0004- **BUTO** 54 (T,V) M Hammond 6-10-2 **Emma Smith-Chaston (3)**

3-1 Mr Hailstone, 9-2 Velasco, 5-1 Something Golden, 11-2 Dr Shirocco, 7-1 Tara Brooch, 8-1 Get Phar, The Longest Day, 20-1 others.

Thunderer's choice: Tara Brooch stayed on stoutly when fourth on her handicap bow here last time. **Danger** Velasco

6.20 Novices' Hurdle (£4,901: 2m 4f) (10)

1 0-U **ALCANTANGO** 17 G Bewley 6-11-2 **J Bewley (3)**
2 P/6- **BEAUMESNIL** 25 S Corbett 6-11-2 **S Coltherd**
3 F53-2 **HARPER VALLEY** 13 R Menzies 6-11-2 **Sean Quinlan**
4 FP1- **IMPERIAL DATA** 37 R Menzies 6-11-2 **R Chapman**
5 600-4 **JIMVALE** 17 (T) Justin Landy 6-11-2 **J Kington**
6 0/5-3 **KOPA KILANA** 13 (T) M Barnes 6-11-2 **B Hughes**
7 3420- **NINETOFIVE** 26 (T,BF) A M Thomson 6-11-2 **R Mania**
8 31P-4 **ROSTELLO** 15 (B,T) Dr R Newland 8-11-2 **C Leonard (5)**
9 FP4-0 **USHUAIA DANCER** 7 Justin Landy 5-11-2 **J Thompson (7)**
10 05- **LADY HOBBS** 152 (P,T) Paul Collins 4-10-2 **S Mulqueen**

9-4 Harper Valley, 7-2 Ninetofive, Rostello, 11-2 Imperial Data, 6-1 Kopa Kilana, 20-1 Jimvale, 25-1 Ushuaia Dancer, Beaumesnil, 28-1 others.

Thunderer choice: Harper Valley's shown enough in three starts to suggest he can win here. **Danger** Ninetofive

6.50 Novices' Handicap Chase (£5,096: 2m 4f) (8)

1 6224/ **BULLDOZE** 418 M Hammond 8-12-0 **C O'Farrell**
2 P524- **TREVELYN'S CORN** 54 (P,T) M Hammond 10-11-13 **Emma Smith-Chaston (3)**
3 6P0-2 **JIMMY RABBITTE** 13 W Coltherd 10-11-11 **S Coltherd**
4 221-1 **DOYENS DE ANTE** 12 (P,T) M Young 7-11-3 **C Hammond**
5 041-P **WEST LAWN** 17 (BF) J Walton 7-10-11 **J Hamilton**
6 0045- **DERRACRIN** 26 F Murtagh 6-10-6 **L Murtagh**
7 0465- **ZIHUATANEJO** 80 S Forster 9-10-2 **S Mulqueen**
8 P0P5- **HAPY LA VIE** 87 (P) J Ewart 6-10-2 **E Austin (5)**

6-4 Doyens De Ante, 3-1 Jimmy Rabbitte, 5-1 Trevelyn's Corn, 10-1 Bulldoze, Derracrin, 12-1 West Lawn, 20-1 Zihuatanejo, 25-1 Hapy La Vie.

Thunderer choice: Doyens De Ante, up 13lb after Chepstow and Huntingdon wins, should go well. **Danger** Trevelyn's Corn

7.20 Handicap Hurdle (£7,789: 2m 4f) (9)

1 4300- **DIDTHEYLEAVEUOUTTO** F29 (P) B Haslam 10-12-2 **R McLernon**
2 F361- **VOIX DU REVE** 31 (P,D) I Jardine 11-11-13 **D Johnston (7)**
3 S2/6- **GLINGER FLAME** 31 (P,CD) N Richards 11-11-9 **Sean Quinlan**
4 305-2 **ONWARD ROUTE** 17 (T,C) R Menzies 9-11-4 **B Hughes**
5 630-5 **CAPTAIN ZEBO** 17 (P,D) J E Dixon 11-11-4 **Mr John Dixon (7)**
6 24/0- **RATTLE OWL** 32 (D) J O'Keeffe 7-11-3 **C O'Farrell**
7 02-03 **APPLAUS** 10 (P,T,C) M Hammond 11-10-13 **J Thompson (10)**
8 022-1 **MOONLIGHT GLORY** 10 (CD) M Walford 8-10-10 **T Midgley (3)**
9 463-1 **BALKALIN** 13 (T) M Barnes 11-10-8 **S Mulqueen**

7-2 Onward Route, 4-1 Moonlight Glory, Voix Du Reve, 5-1 Glinger Flame, 10-1 Balkalin, Didtheyleaveuoutto, Captain Zebo, 12-1 Applaus, 16-1 Rattle Owl.

Thunderer choice: Balkalin arrives in good heart, finishing third here before winning at Kelso. **Danger** Onward Route

7.50 Memorial Handicap Chase (£5,202: 3m) (6)

1 36-P1 **CAPTAIN TOMMY** 3 (D) I Williams 9-12-7(7ex) **P W Wadge (5)**
2 13U-4 **STORM LORENZO** 10 (P,CD) R Menzies 8-11-11 **N Moscrop**
3 3012- **KILDRUM** 56 (V,BF,CD) M Hammond 10-10-6 **Emma Smith-Chaston (3)**
4 FPP1- **GIBBERWELL** 29 (B,CD) J Coulson 7-10-4 **P Armson (3)**
5 000-2 **ROBERT D'ORES** 17 (T) G Bewley 6-10-2 **J Bewley (3)**
6 3235- **HENRY BROWN** 29 (P,CD) H Burns 8-10-2 **B Hughes**

11-8 Captain Tommy, 4-1 Gibberwell, 9-2 Kildrum, 7-1 Robert D'ores, 8-1 Storm Lorenzo, 10-1 Henry Brown.

Thunderer choice: Kildrum is 1312 in his four races here in the past year; another bold bid is likely. **Danger** Captain Tommy

8.20 Handicap Chase (£5,255: 2m) (9)

1 4153- **LAKE TAKAPUNA** 74 (P,D) J Ewart 12-12-0 **B Hughes**
2 145-2 **FIRST REVOLUTION** 10 M Todhunter 9-11-2 **Sean Quinlan**
3 600-P **DOLLY DANCER** 17 (T,C) M Barnes 9-10-13 **S Mulqueen**
4 /4P0- **KONIK KING** 194 (W,T) S Corbett 7-10-8 **S Coltherd**
5 PP42- **ROBINS FIELD** 39 (T) Harriet Dickin 8-10-2 **B Poste**
6 3126- **ONENIGHTINTOWN** 173 (P,T) M Hammond 9-10-2 **C O'Farrell**
7 500-5 **ARCHIVE** 17 (D) Suzzanne France 13-10-2 **A Anderson (5)**
8 5525- **DIVAS DOYEN** 55 (P) S Forster 6-10-2 **P W Wadge (5)**
9 0P35- **BANDIT D'AINAY** 29 (T,V) M Hammond 12-10-2 **Emma Smith-Chaston (3)**

2-1 Lake Takapuna, 5-2 First Revolution, 5-1 Robins Field, 8-1 Dolly Dancer, 10-1 Konik King, 12-1 Onenightintown, 20-1 others.

Thunderer choice: First Revolution bumped into one ahead of his mark here last time, but this opposition lacks improvers. **Danger** Lake Takapuna

8.50 Handicap Hurdle (£4,674: 2m) (14)

1 2034- **KILBRAINY** 25 A M Thomson 7-12-0 **R Mania**
2 3336- **LORD CAPRIO** 89 (T,CD) B Haslam 8-11-12 **R McLernon**
3 3406- **MALANGEN** 215 (H,D) Miss L Harrison 8-11-9 **W Shanahan (7)**
4 354-2 **HAVEYOUGOTMYMONEY** 17 (BF,D) Paul Robson 5-11-3 **B Hughes**
5 5502- **PATEEN** 26 (T,V) J Bedi 11-11-3 **A Anderson (5)**
6 033-P **GAME BEAAA** 13 D Bourke 6-11-1 **Sean Quinlan**
7 422P- **BELLE NA BANN** 72 (T) M Hammond 7-10-10 **J Thompson (10)**
8 35P0- **JACK YEATS** 26 W Coltherd 7-10-9 **S Coltherd**
9 0P6-3 **COMEONRITA** 17 J Haynes 5-10-9 **R Chapman**
10 /350- **DANKING** 194 A Crook 6-10-6 **J Kington**
11 2P5-1 **CHEMICAL WARFARE** 7 (T) T Collier 6-10-6 **Thomas Dowson**
12 2/5P- **CLICK AND COLLECT** 90 (B) J Coulson 11-10-2 **Toby Wynne (5)**
13 0P0-0 **DIAMANT SUR CANAPE** 13 Ewan Whillans 5-10-2 **D McMenamin**
14 4P40- **ROBIN GOODFELLOW** 39 T Waggott 4-10-2 **William Maggs (7)**

3-1 Haveyougotmymoney, 7-2 Chemical Warfare, 13-2 Pateen, 7-1 others.

Thunderer choice: Chemical Warfare, a winner over fences last week, reverts to hurdles off same mark. **Danger** Lord Caprio

Ayr

Thunderer

6.00 Woobay
6.30 Tafsir
7.00 Woven
7.30 One Last Hug
8.00 Classy Al **(nap)**
8.30 Merricourt
9.00 Paramaribo

Going good-good to firm in places
Draw no advantage — **Racing TV**

6.00 Maiden Fillies' Stakes (£4,320: 6f) (8)

1 (4) **GENEVIEVE** J Goldie 4-9-11 **P Mulrennan**
2 (2) 3/3 **WOOBAY** 19 Phillip Makin 4-9-11 **R Scott**
3 (7) 0 **BLOOMIN ROBBERY** 19 J J Quinn 3-9-2 **J Hart**
4 (5) 6 **HOLD ON TOGETHER** 19 J Goldie 3-9-2 **P Dennis**
5 (1) 5- **LOCH CARRON** 368 Charlie Johnston 3-9-2 **J Fanning**
6 (8) 206-5 **MAGGIE'S TERN** 21 R Fell 3-9-2 **J Peate (5)**
7 (6) **SWEET CARBOLINE** J Goldie 3-9-2 **Amie Waugh (5)**
8 (3) 6 **WAMBAMWIGWAM** 16 J Goldie 3-9-2 **C Hardie**

11-8 Maggie's Tern, 10-3 Woobay, 4-1 Loch Carron, 8-1 Bloomin Robbery, 16-1 Sweet Carboline, Genevieve, 20-1 Hold On Together, 25-1 Wambamwigwam.

6.30 Handicap (£3,664: 1m 2f) (10)

1 (4) 230-3 **BERRY EDGE** 19 (P,D) M Dods 5-9-10 **C Beasley**
2 (10) 45-40 **GRACES QUEST** 9 J Goldie 5-9-9 **P Mulrennan**
3 (5) 062/5 **MY MACHO MAN** 19 (B,T) K Scott 6-9-7 **P Dennis**
4 (8) 00645 **HAVANA PARTY** 4 (P) I Jardine 5-9-4 **Ryan Sexton (3)**
5 (1) 400-2 **FLYING MOON** 19 (CD) R M Smith 7-9-2 **P Mathers**
6 (3) -3023 **BULLS AYE** 8 I Jardine 5-9-1 **A Mullen**
7 (2) 20360 **ST ANDREW'S CASTLE** 4 (P,C) J Goldie 4-9-0 **J Peate (5)**
8 (9) -5056 **COCONUT BAY** 8 (D) T Davidson 4-8-12 **J Hart**
9 (6) 000-1 **ROYAL COUNTESS** 19 (CD) R M Smith 7-8-8 **Paula Muir (3)**
10 (7) 0-032 **TAFSIR** 14 (P) J Goldie 4-8-4 **C Hardie**

9-2 Royal Countess, 5-1 Flying Moon, 6-1 Tafsir, Berry Edge, 15-2 others.

7.00 Handicap (£7,851: 6f) (8)

1 (7) 243-1 **WOVEN** 17 (D) M Dods 7-9-11 **C Beasley**
2 (6) 0000- **SIGNIFICANTLY** 220 (D) J Camacho 5-9-10 **G Lee**
3 (4) 02-00 **SOLDIER'S MINUTE** 6 (H,D) K Dalgleish 8-9-9 **J Fanning**
4 (5) 12-62 **ABDUCTION** 23 (C,D) J Goldie 5-9-9 **P Mulrennan**
5 (1) -6260 **VENTUROUS** 46 (D) D & N Barron 10-9-8 **J Hart**
6 (8) 12135 **SHALAA ASKER** 23 (D) A Keatley 5-9-5 **Ryan Sexton (3)**
7 (3) 33200 **WALKING ON CLOUDS** 23 (D) G Tuer 4-9-5 **O Stammers (3)**
8 (2) 022-3 **FAST AND LOOSE** 17 (B,D) K Ryan 4-9-4 **T Eaves**

3-1 Woven, 4-1 Abduction, 11-2 Soldier's Minute, 6-1 Fast And Loose, Significantly, 8-1 Venturous, 10-1 Shalaa Asker, 12-1 Walking On Clouds.

7.30 Handicap (£3,664: 5f) (7)

1 (3) 6-000 **STAY SMART** 15 (T,D) I Jardine 5-10-0 **A Mullen**
2 (5) 00-05 **SOSALLYCANWAIT** 17 L Breen 4-9-11 **J Hart**
3 (2) 34-05 **BONITO CAVALO** 4 J Goldie 4-9-10 **P Mulrennan**
4 (4) -3041 **ONE LAST HUG** 15 (C) J Goldie 8-9-7 **J Fanning**
5 (1) 060-0 **NODSASGOODASAWINK** 15 (P) Miss L Perratt 5-9-3 **P Mathers**
6 (7) 05000 **DANAH STAR** 18 (B) J Wainwright 4-9-3 **D Costello**
7 (6) -4000 **SMOOTH RED** 8 (B) Ewan Whillans 3-9-1 **R Scott**

13-8 One Last Hug, 9-4 Sosallycanwait, 5-1 Bonito Cavalo, 7-1 Stay Smart, 16-1 Nodsasgoodasawink, Danah Star, 20-1 Smooth Red.

8.00 Handicap (£5,234: 7f) (8)

1 (7) -2640 **DARKNESS** 10 (V,D) D O'Meara 5-9-9 **Jason Watson**
2 (1) 6640- **ESPRESSOO** 225 (CD) Charlie Johnston 4-9-7 **J Fanning**
3 (2) 113-4 **MANIGORDO** 23 (P,T,D) T Easterby 6-9-4 **J Hart**
4 (5) 26-25 **HOW IMPRESSIVE** 17 (P,T,D) H Palmer 4-9-2 **P Mulrennan**
5 (3) 62-03 **TOUCHWOOD** 8 R Carr 5-9-0 **JP Sullivan**
6 (8) 4-262 **BLACK FRIDAY** 15 (C,D) R M Smith 8-9-0 **P Mathers**
7 (6) 02-41 **JUDGMENT CALL** 19 (CD) Miss L Perratt 5-9-0 **D Allan**
8 (4) 512-3 **CLASSY AL** 19 (H,CD) J Goldie 5-8-8 **C Hardie**

7-2 Judgment Call, 9-2 Manigordo, 5-1 Darkness, 11-2 How Impressive, 13-2 Touchwood, 7-1 Classy Al, 10-1 Espressoo, Black Friday.

8.30 Handicap (£3,664: 7f) (10)

1 (8) 04222 **NOVAK** 19 (D) I Jardine 4-9-11 **W Pyle (7)**
2 (2) 0-036 **FIFTYSHADESOFRED** 7 (H,D) K Frost 5-9-11 **J Fanning**
3 (6) 500-5 **TANGLED** 19 (B,D) R M Smith 8-9-11 **P Mathers**
4 (10) -6456 **RORY** 4 (C) J Goldie 5-9-10 **P Mulrennan**
5 (5) 32-04 **STALINGRAD** 12 G Tuer 6-9-8 **O Stammers (3)**
6 (7) -0161 **TURBO COMMAND** 35 (D) Mrs A C Hamilton 6-9-6 **C Hardie**
7 (1) 100-0 **MONHAMMER** 18 (CD) Miss L Perratt 5-9-5 **D Allan**
8 (4) -0052 **MERRICOURT** 8 (P,CD) I Jardine 7-9-4 **A Mullen**
9 (3) 64364 **ORIENTAL LILLY** 14 (V,CD) J Goldie 9-8-4 **Amie Waugh (5)**
10 (9) 5000- **ROYAL PRINCESS** 225 R M Smith 5-8-4 **Paula Muir (3)**

7-2 Novak, 4-1 Merricourt, 5-1 Turbo Command, 13-2 Stalingrad, 7-1 Oriental Lilly, 8-1 Fiftyshadesofred, 10-1 Rory, 12-1 Monhammer, Tangled, 100-1 other.

9.00 Handicap (£3,664: 1m 5f) (7)

1 (2) 03-65 **TWO AULD PALS** 9 J Goldie 5-9-11 **C Hardie**
2 (3) 44-00 **SCOTTISH WIND** 18 (P) L Russell 5-9-9 **J Hart**
3 (6) 00-32 **LAWMANS BLIS** 20 Alex French 5-9-9 **J Peate (5)**
4 (1) 25264 **BILLY BATHGATE** 18 Ewan Whillans 7-9-8 **R Scott**
5 (5) 23-65 **BAEZ** 16 J Goldie 4-9-8 **P Mulrennan**
6 (7) 30-62 **PARAMARIBO** 8 (T,V,BF) I Jardine 5-9-7 **G Lee**
7 (4) -4635 **ASK PETER** 8 (P) Charlie Johnston 4-9-4 **J Fanning**

5-2 Paramaribo, 10-3 Lawmans Blis, 11-2 Ask Peter, 6-1 Baez, 13-2 Two Auld Pals, 7-1 Billy Bathgate, 12-1 Scottish Wind.

Brighton

Thunderer

2.23 Mr Fayez
2.53 All Dunn
3.23 River Wharfe
3.53 Largo Bay
4.23 Bishop's Crown
4.53 Mostawaa
5.26 Cap D'Antibes

Going good to firm
Draw 5f, low numbers best — **Sky Sports Racing**

2.23 Handicap (£3,245: 5f) (10)

1 (7) 00565 **I'M MABLE** 27 (D) M Attwater 5-9-13 **P Bradley (3)**
2 (2) 0-065 **HEY HO LET'S GO** 31 (D) M Hoad 7-9-13 **R Da Silva**
3 (1) 23001 **BIG TIME MAYBE** 10 (CD) P McEntee 8-9-11 **Josephine Gordon**
4 (6) 06505 **MASTER SULLY** 12 (P,D) R Teal 5-9-3 **S Osborne**
5 (4) 00200 **ARZAAK** 68 (CD) C Wallis 9-9-3 **F Marsh**
6 (3) 00-44 **MR FAYEZ** 28 (H,BF) Dylan Cunha 5-9-3 **Kyle Strydom**
7 (5) 05603 **LIBERTY BAY** 21 (D) M Usher 5-9-3 **Millie Wonnacott (5)**
8 (9) 00005 **MR PC** 21 (D) A Carroll 5-9-3 **T Marquand**
9 (10) 456-3 **GEORGIA MADELEINE** 130 (BF,CD) S Pearce 3-8-11 **D Probert**
10 (8) 0-004 **METARACE** 14 (T) P & O Cole 3-8-9 **C Bennett**

9-4 Big Time Maybe, 5-1 Mr Fayez, 6-1 Liberty Bay, 8-1 Master Sully, Hey Ho Let's Go, 10-1 Mr Pc, I'm Mable, Georgia Madeleine, 14-1 others.

2.53 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,245: 7f) (14)

1 (12) 655-0 **HAVECHATMA** 13 D Ivory 9-9 **C Fallon**
2 (4) 00-53 **RIVER NAVER** 21 (P) A Watson 9-8 **H Crouch**
3 (14) -4240 **SILKS GRAPHITE** 7 (T) Darryll Holland 9-8 **Liam Wright (7)**
4 (1) 21342 **ALL DUNN** 15 (D) J Osborne 9-7 **S Osborne**
5 (11) 000-6 **FREETODREAM** 13 A Perrett 9-3 **R Havlin**
6 (9) 065 **ISLAND NATIVE** 19 H Main 9-3 **R Dawson**
7 (6) 500- **CEILIDH** 168 (B) H Morrison 9-3 **R Hornby**
8 (8) 00-03 **WHITE MIST** 21 (T) Mrs I G-Leveque 9-2 **Laura Pearson (3)**
9 (13) 660 **DARLO PRIDE** 59 A Carson 9-1 **W Carson**
10 (7) 66446 **SHE'S A MIRAGE** 21 P Evans 9-0 **T Marquand**
11 (5) -3440 **REGAL GLORY** 46 (D) Mrs L Mongan 9-0 **K O'Neill**
12 (10) 40366 **DEEP SPIRIT** 15 (H) A Carson 8-10 **D Keenan**
13 (2) 000-0 **THE GAME IS UP** 29 P Phelan 8-9 **J F Egan**
14 (3) 0-00 **CRAGGY RANGE** 66 (W) E Walker 8-9 **D Probert**

7-2 All Dunn, 6-1 River Naver, 13-2 Silks Graphite, 8-1 Ceilidh, She's A Mirage, 10-1 Freetodream, White Mist, 12-1 Havechatma, 16-1 others.

3.23 Handicap (£3,245: 7f) (11)

1 (4) 40-00 **KING OF WAR** 21 (T,CD) Alexandra Dunn 4-9-10 **T Fisher (5)**
2 (7) 140-5 **MAJOR GATSBY** 136 (V,CD) W G M Turner 4-9-10 **Gina Mangan (3)**
3 (2) 213-6 **SHALFA** 13 (B,CD) Mrs L Richards 4-9-7 **R Havlin**
4 (5) 040-3 **AMATHUS** 21 (P,CD) P Chamings 6-9-7 **H Crouch**
5 (8) 62065 **RIVER WHARFE** 27 (P,CD) A Carroll 5-9-7 **T Marquand**
6 (3) 03503 **MOUNT MOGAN** 20 (V,D) Mrs L Mongan 6-9-6 **K O'Neill**
7 (6) 50652 **FIELDSMAN** 11 (CD) A Carroll 11-9-4 **Mollie Phillips (3)**
8 (10) 4/00- **SPIRIT WARNING** 354 (B,D) G Baker 7-9-3 **C Bishop**
9 (11) -6136 **DIAMOND COTTAGE** 6 (H,CD) M Saunders 6-9-3 **W Carson**
10 (1) 060-6 **SIR SEDRIC** 101 (P,D) L Carter 5-8-11 **G Downing**
11 (9) 00-06 **DAZZERLING** 19 (H) P McEntee 4-8-6 **Josephine Gordon**

3-1 Amathus, 11-2 Fieldsman, 6-1 River Wharfe, 7-1 Mount Mogan, Diamond Cottage, 8-1 Shalfa, 10-1 Spirit Warning, 12-1 Sir Sedric, 16-1 others.

3.53 Handicap (£4,606: 1m 4f) (7)

1 (7) -1344 **D DAY ODETTE** 10 (T) K P De Foy 4-9-11 **B Sayette (3)**
2 (1) 21640 **LATER DARLING** 19 (H,D) A Perrett 4-9-10 **R Hornby**
3 (2) 60-03 **AL AZHAR** 19 (B,D) M Tregoning 4-9-8 **D O'Neill**
4 (6) -0501 **ZURAIG** 10 (P,D) B J Llewellyn 5-9-6 **Jordan Williams (5)**
5 (4) -0000 **LARGO BAY** 69 (B,CD) M Madgwick 5-9-4 **G Rooke**
6 (5) -5002 **ARYAAH** 31 (H,T) D Steele 4-9-3 **W Cox**
7 (3) 62141 **SEATTLE KING** 20 (B,C) P McEntee 4-8-11 **Josephine Gordon**

5-2 Aryaah, 3-1 Al Azhar, 4-1 Seattle King, 6-1 D Day Odette, 13-2 Zuraig, 12-1 Later Darling, 16-1 Largo Bay.

4.23 Restricted Novice Stakes (£4,187: 1m) (5)

1 (3) 0 **POPPYEQUIANO** 34 P Butler 4-9-9 **Georgia Dobie (3)**
2 (1) 533-2 **BISHOP'S CROWN** 17 E J-Houghton 3-9-4 **C Bishop**
3 (4) 0-00 **ISLAND KING** 8 (P,T) H Main 3-9-4 **Gina Mangan (3)**
4 (2) 20-0 **BREAK THE SPELL** 27 M Attwater 3-8-13 **W Carson**
5 (5) 6- **KEHLANI** 167 J Osborne 3-8-13 **S Osborne**

1-3 Bishop's Crown, 9-2 Kehlani, 6-1 Break The Spell, 50-1 Island King, 100-1 Poppyequiano.

4.53 Handicap (£4,606: 1m) (8)

1 (4) -0501 **ENOUGH ALREADY** 19 (CD) L Carter 7-9-11 **G Downing**
2 (7) 00-63 **MOSTAWAA** 9 (B,D) H Main 7-9-9 **Gina Mangan (3)**
3 (2) 51404 **NASIM** 22 (D) M Appleby 4-9-6 **C Fallon**
4 (8) 40-52 **MICKS DREAM** 21 (P) R Teal 5-9-6 **T Marquand**
5 (6) 14666 **POETIC FORCE** 21 (CD) A Carroll 9-9-5 **Mollie Phillips (3)**
6 (3) 0-005 **DARVEL** 19 (V,CD) P Chamings 5-9-3 **H Crouch**
7 (1) 00-65 **ROMAN DYNASTY** 77 Joseph Parr 5-9-1 **D Probert**
8 (5) 4-210 **OTAGO** 10 (C) J Boyle 6-9-1 **C Bennett**

9-4 Mostawaa, 10-3 Micks Dream, 7-2 Enough Already, 10-1 Darvel, Poetic Force, 12-1 Otago, Nasim, Roman Dynasty.

5.26 Handicap (£3,245: 1m) (13)

1 (10) -5365 **CAP D'ANTIBES** 20 (T,D) M Roberts 6-9-11 **R Havlin**
2 (12) 0543- **GRAFFITI** 166 G Brown 4-9-11 **D Probert**
3 (9) -0024 **COMPERE** 19 (P) M Attwater 4-9-10 **P Bradley (3)**
4 (7) -0036 **MR MARVLOS** 12 (B) T Kent 5-9-8 **R Dawson**
5 (8) 10-00 **ADACE** 20 (P,C,D) D Ivory 5-9-6 **K O'Neill**
6 (2) 5-360 **LAURENTIA** 118 (D) Mrs L Mongan 7-9-3 **C Bennett**
7 (13) 10562 **RIVAS ROB ROY** 20 (B,C,D) J Gallagher 8-9-2 **T Marquand**
8 (3) 000- **LANDING STRIP** 167 M Tregoning 4-9-2 **D O'Neill**
9 (4) 0342- **VOODOO RAY** 253 (P) G L Moore 4-9-1 **R Clutterbuck**
10 (11) 0-003 **QUEEN SARABI** 20 (C) A Carroll 5-9-0 **Mollie Phillips (3)**
11 (5) 00000 **CAPLA KNIGHT** 19 (P,T,D) P McEntee 5-9-0 **Josephine Gordon**
12 (6) 636-6 **JOLI'S LEGACY** 74 A Newcombe 5-9-0 **W Cox**
13 (1) 4000- **ESSME** 185 R Cook & J Bridger 5-9-0 **W Carson**

3-1 Rivas Rob Roy, 5-1 Voodoo Ray, 11-2 Queen Sarabi, Graffiti, 7-1 Compere, 10-1 Mr Marvlos, Cap D'Antibes, 14-1 Joli's Legacy, 20-1 others.

Huntingdon

Thunderer

2.30 Call Me Tara
3.00 Qoya
3.30 Wolf Of Oxshott
4.00 Stamina Chope
4.30 Caius Marcius
5.00 Slievegar
5.30 Dellboy Trotter

Going good — **Racing TV**

2.30 Novices' Handicap Chase (£5,809: 2m 104yd) (4)

1 P166- **SOFIA'S ROCK** 29 (P,T) Harriet Dickin 9-12-0 **J Best**
2 1213- **CALL ME TARA** 27 (T) F O'Brien 6-11-8 **P Brennan**
3 02P-P **MAGISTRATO** 22 (T) P Nicholls 5-11-5 **H Cobden**
4 P22-P **MADIBA PASSION** 14 (H) A King 9-11-2 **G Sheehan**

11-8 Call Me Tara, 2-1 Magistrato, 3-1 Madiba Passion, 10-1 Sofia's Rock.

3.00 Mares' Handicap Hurdle (£4,139: 2m) (11)

1 2424- **AYR OF ELEGANCE** 30 (B) D J Jeffreys 11-12-0 **Lilly Pinchin (3)**
2 4016- **SYMPHORINE** 26 (V) G L Moore 5-11-12 **Jamie Moore**
3 5/P0- **TONYX** 39 Miss A Murphy 7-11-12 **J Quinlan**
4 360U- **MASKED DANCE** 27 M Rowley 5-11-11 **A Edwards**
5 453- **QOYA** 56 A King 4-11-10 **G Sheehan**
6 6105- **EVENTFUL** 99 (B,D) J & S Best 6-11-9 **N Scholfield**
7 P01P- **COASTAL SUN** 43 (W,H,T,D) J Snowden 5-11-1 **S Twiston-Davies**
8 23P1- **WELL DONE DANI** 25 (T,D) Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero 6-10-11 **H Brooke**
9 644- **CECI WELLS** 44 (B) P Webber 6-10-10 **A Wedge**
10 565- **ONLY FOOLS** 40 (T) D Pipe 4-10-3 **J Tudor**
11 54-0 **VISION OF HOPE** 15 (H,T) James Owen 4-10-2 **S Bowen**

11-4 Qoya, 7-2 Well Done Dani, 6-1 Only Fools, 7-1 others.

3.30 Maiden Hurdle (£4,520: 2m) (9)

1 5 **BAILEYS DERBYDAY** 15 Miss A Murphy 5-11-4 **J Quinlan**
2 6/0B **BUXTED TOO** 4 I Williams 5-11-4 **C J Todd**
3 6-3 **FANDABIDOZI** 12 G Hanmer 5-11-4 **Tabitha Worsley (3)**
4 PP-U **IMPERIAL ADMIRAL** 9 (T) K Bailey 5-11-4 **Ciaran Gethings**
5 3- **SISTERANDBROTHER** 83 (H,T) M Harris 5-11-4 **H Cobden**
6 00- **THORPENESS** 71 (W,T) D Skelton 5-11-4 **T Durrell (5)**
7 04- **UGGY UGGY UGGY** 25 M Harris 5-11-4 **B Harris (7)**
8 **LOVE MYSTERY** F248 O Murphy 4-10-12 **S Bowen**
9 **WOLF OF OXSHOTT** F21 M Scudamore 4-10-12 **Jamie Moore**

7-4 Love Mystery, 9-2 Wolf Of Oxshott, 5-1 Sisterandbrother, 8-1 others.

4.00 Handicap Chase (£4,357: 2m 4f) (8)

1 F26-5 **OUT THE GLEN** 17 (P,CD) O Murphy 10-12-1 **S Bowen**
2 234P- **LOUGH CARRA** 41 (P) J Candlish 6-11-6 **G Sheehan**
3 3635- **STAMINA CHOPE** 57 Dave Roberts 7-11-1 **L Edwards**
4 /P0P- **GLEBE ROAD** 31 (T) J Mackie 7-10-11 **P J Kavanagh (5)**
5 U2P-4 **LETSBE AVENUE** 14 (P) K Burke 8-10-10 **H Kimber (3)**
6 3P4-5 **CLOUDY WEDNESDAY** 14 (P) C Fryer 7-10-7 **L Stones (3)**
7 U03P- **AGENT SAONOIS** 44 (P,T) N Mulholland 7-10-2 **S Twiston-Davies**
8 4/PP- **GUTTURAL** 30 (T) P Taylor 9-10-2 **H Bannister**

9-4 Out The Glen, 4-1 Letsbe Avenue, 9-2 Lough Carra, 13-2 others.

4.30 Handicap Hurdle (£8,450: 3m 1f) (7)

1 3111- **CAIUS MARCIUS** 26 (P) N Richards 12-12-0 **Conor Rabbitt (7)**
2 P303- **ASK A HONEY BEE** 26 (B) F O'Brien 9-11-13 **Miss Fern O'Brien (7)**
3 64PP- **TIME TO TINKER** 100 (P,T) P Nicholls 8-11-9 **H Cobden**
4 045-1 **JUDICIAL LAW** 15 Jonjo O'Neill 6-11-9 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr**
5 P340- **SCARPIA** 37 (D) N Henderson 9-11-8 **N De Boinville**
6 4400- **SAMMYLOU** 183 (T,C) F O'Brien 10-11-2 **N Slatter (5)**
7 33PP- **DANNY WHIZZBANG** 94 (T) M Harris 10-10-9 **H Reed**

9-4 Caius Marcius, 3-1 Judicial Law, 10-3 Ask A Honey Bee, 13-2 others.

5.00 Novices' Hunters' Chase (£2,361: 3m) (8)

1 3F4-2 **HOMME D'UN SOIR** 22 (P,T) Francesca Poste 7-12-6 **Mrs A Cox (7)**
2 3/3-6 **DESIRE DE JOIE** 18 (B,T) N R Wright 10-11-12 **Mr A Chadwick (5)**
3 2P2-2 **DUNWORLEY** 22 R Pringuer 7-11-12 **Mr C Case (7)**
4 225P- **JUST CAUSE** 46 Mrs J Owen 13-11-12 **Mr R Stearn (7)**
5 2212- **KAPROYALE** 30 (T) Francesca Poste 8-11-12 **Mr Z Baker**
6 4U2-P **MR SNUFFLES** 22 (BF) Miss Laura Richardson 11-11-12 **Mr H Edwards (7)**
7 112-2 **SLIEVEGAR** 18 (T) P Rowley 7-11-12 **Mr T McCain-Mitchell (7)**
8 1P1-P **THE WHISTLE BLOWER** 18 (P,T) J R Barlow 8-11-12 **Mr Paddy Barlow (7)**

15-8 Homme D'Un Soir, 10-3 Slievegar, 7-2 Kaproyale, 8-1 others.

5.30 Handicap Hurdle (£5,017: 2m 4f) (9)

1 2100- **APPRECIATE** 227 (T,D) M Harris 5-12-2 **B Harris (7)**
2 3326- **GROOM DE COTTE** 41 (T) S Curran 7-12-0 **A Wedge**
3 5505- **RED FORCE ONE** 34 (P) P Kirby 8-12-0 **J Williamson (5)**
4 /525- **PASS THE LOVE ON** 45 A King 6-11-12 **G Sheehan**
5 4404- **PERRYVILLE** 41 M Rowley 6-11-8 **A Edwards**
6 634-4 **ENTHUSED** 14 (P) James Owen 6-11-7 **Mr A Chadwick (7)**
7 245P- **LAND OF MY DELIGHT** 139 D J Jeffreys 7-11-3 **S Twiston-Davies**
8 44-52 **DELLBOY TROTTER** 9 Tracey Leeson 7-10-11 **H Cobden**
9 46P-0 **CHEER'S DELBOY** 14 (B,T) Harriet Dickin 10-10-2 **J Best**

11-4 Dellboy Trotter, 7-2 Pass The Love On, 9-2 Enthused, 7-1 others.

Wolverhampton

Thunderer

2.10 Unlimited Data
2.40 Apache Star
3.10 Aim For The Moon
3.40 Written Broadcast
4.10 Hat Toss
4.40 H Key Lails
5.15 Philos **(nb)**

Going standard
Draw no advantage — **Sky Sports Racing**

2.10 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,245: 5f) (8)

1 (6) 13-00 **LUPSET FLOSSY POP** 20 Phillip Makin 9-11 **H Doyle**
2 (2) 26-30 **GLOBAL EFFORT** 10 J Butler 9-10 **H Burns (3)**
3 (4) 200-6 **AGOSTINO** 10 R Cowell 9-10 **H Turner**
4 (5) 20143 **CUBAN GREY** 20 (P,T,CD) R Cowell 9-9 **D Muscutt**
5 (8) 060 **VICTORS DREAM** 25 M Botti 9-4 **N Callan**
6 (1) 6031- **UNLIMITED DATA** 165 (CD) W Muir & C Grassick 9-3 **L Edmunds**
7 (7) 2-406 **SILVERLODE** 22 B Ellison 9-1 **W Buick**
8 (3) 65064 **NORTHERN CHANCER** 38 (P) P Kirby 8-4 **L Morris**

9-4 Unlimited Data, 4-1 Cuban Grey, 6-1 Silverlode, Global Effort, 8-1 Northern Chancer, 10-1 Lupset Flossy Pop, Victors Dream, 12-1 Agostino.

2.40 Handicap (£3,245: 5f) (8)

1 (3) /20-0 **CARIBBEAN SUNSET** 14 G Tuer 5-9-10 **S James**
2 (5) 400-6 **FORCA BRASIL** 19 (B,T,D) G Boughey 4-9-9 **W Buick**
3 (2) 43-40 **STREET LIFE** 24 (P,CD) P Morris 6-9-8 **Morgan Cole (7)**
4 (4) 02/3 **ANIMIST** 24 K Jewell 4-9-5 **L Morris**
5 (6) 20254 **RED WALLS** 12 (V,CD) L Williamson 5-9-1 **J Mitchell**
6 (7) 60335 **APACHE STAR** 15 (C) M Loughnane 4-9-1 **D Muscutt**
7 (1) -0224 **YOU'RE COOL** 73 (T,V,CD) D Shaw 11-8-11 **L Edmunds**
8 (8) 00-00 **NEXT SECOND** 21 (CD) R Carr 4-8-6 **Joanna Mason**

3-1 Forca Brasil, 4-1 You're Cool, 5-1 Apache Star, 6-1 Caribbean Sunset, Red Walls, 8-1 Street Life, 12-1 Animist, Next Second.

3.10 Novice Stakes (£4,104: 7f) (12)

1 (4) 5 **GAUTREY** 24 A Carroll 4-10-1 **J P Spencer**
2 (8) 51 **EDEN STORM** 28 (CD) M Botti 3-9-11 **A Atzeni**
3 (2) 1 **OWL ISLAND** 12 (D) S & E Crisford 3-9-11 **James Doyle**
4 (11) 02 **AIM FOR THE MOON** 20 (H,T) J Butler 6-9-10 **D Muscutt**
5 (1) 52 **PROFIT GIVEN** 12 I Mohammed 4-9-10 **J Mitchell**
6 (6) 4-0 **ALL INCLUSIVE** 25 M Loughnane 3-9-4 **Joanna Mason**
7 (10) **ISLAND LUCK** R Hannon 3-9-4 **O Murphy**
8 (5) 0 **QUEENSLAND BOY** 20 I Williams 3-9-4 **B Sanderson (3)**
9 (12) 02 **STORY OF PEACE** 10 S & E Crisford 3-9-4 **R Coakley**
10 (9) 2- **MORALISA** 245 I Mohammed 3-8-13 **Rossa Ryan**
11 (3) 3-6 **SAIL ON SILVERBIRD** 38 M Bell 3-8-13 **C Shepherd**
12 (7) 6- **TANGLED IN TIME** 277 C Fellowes 3-8-13 **Mikkel Mortensen (7)**

9-2 Eden Storm, 5-1 Owl Island, 6-1 Island Luck, Story Of Peace, Aim For The Moon, Profit Given, 8-1 Tangled In Time, 10-1 Moralisa, 14-1 others.

3.40 Handicap (£3,245: 7f) (9)

1 (1) 0/0-0 **GLOBAL ROMANCE** 8 (H,T) J Butler 4-9-11 **H Burns (3)**
2 (3) 00303 **MUDLAHHIM** 11 (CD) S Dixon 7-9-8 **Dale Swift**
3 (7) 30000 **ROGUE STAR** 14 (P,T) M Murphy & M Keady 4-9-8 **D Muscutt**
4 (8) -6026 **SEAS OF ELZAAM** 55 (H,C,D) J Butler 6-9-7 **G Wood**
5 (5) -0000 **CRYSTAL DAWN** 20 (T,CD) Ronald Thompson 7-9-5 **Dylan Hogan**
6 (4) 33663 **WRITTEN BROADCAST** 14 (B,BF,CD) O Pears 6-9-5 **N Callan**
7 (6) 60-10 **FLAGMAN** 7 D Faulkner 5-9-5 **O Murphy**
8 (2) 10536 **NO DIGGITY** 38 (V,CD) J Butler 7-8-11 **L Morris**
9 (9) 53003 **POP FAVORITE** 8 (B) S Dixon 5-8-9 **Elisha Whittington (5)**

2-1 Written Broadcast, 4-1 Mudlahhim, 5-1 Pop Favorite, 8-1 Seas Of Elzaam, Flagman, No Diggity, 14-1 Global Romance, 16-1 others.

4.10 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,873: 1m 1f) (10)

1 (1) 3244- **QUANTUM LIGHT** 206 R Beckett 9-10 **Rossa Ryan**
2 (6) 05-1 **DHARIYE** 119 H Palmer 9-10 **James Doyle**
3 (5) 051-5 **FOREST DEMON** 36 D & C Kubler 9-8 **R Kingscote**
4 (7) 5-062 **HAT TOSS** 24 (H) D Loughnane 9-8 **O Murphy**
5 (8) -5335 **FLAME SPIRIT** 19 J Tate 9-7 **N Callan**
6 (4) 64-10 **STAR CHILD** 21 A Watson 9-7 **H Doyle**
7 (2) 0-31 **BORN RULER** 113 (C) Sir M Prescott 9-7 **L Morris**
8 (10) 200 **KODIMAN** 49 (H) R Varian 9-6 **David Egan**
9 (9) 5-435 **NO BARRIER** 23 K Ryan 9-3 **W Buick**
10 (3) 5422- **DEE SEE ARE** 199 K R Burke 8-11 **C Lee**

9-2 Born Ruler, 5-1 Hat Toss, Dhariye, 13-2 No Barrier, 8-1 Quantum Light, 10-1 Star Child, Flame Spirit, Dee See Are, Forest Demon, Kodiman.

4.40 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,245: 1m 1f) (12)

1 (12) 00-03 **RED FORT** 31 (P) Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero 9-9 **A Rawlinson**
2 (6) 61202 **H KEY LAILS** 7 (P,CD) Craig Lidster 9-9 **S James**
3 (4) 0-00 **OCEAN RIDGE** 25 (H,T) S Durack 9-8 **Doubtful**
4 (2) 16-34 **MOONDIAL** 21 D & C Kubler 9-8 **R Kingscote**
5 (11) 00-0 **PANNING FOR GOLD** 141 D M Simcock 9-8 **J P Spencer**
6 (7) 00-0 **DELAYED ACTION** 15 B Ellison 9-6 **H Russell (3)**
7 (8) 00060 **MUSTERION** 13 J Butler 9-6 **L Morris**
8 (1) 6603 **DAME LAURA KNIGHT** 33 I Williams 9-4 **W Buick**
9 (5) 600-0 **ROMANTIC SUNLIGHT** 29 W Stone 9-4 **H Doyle**
10 (10) 60045 **GYPSY NATION** 21 (B) A Watson 9-0 **O Murphy**
11 (9) -0500 **SMART SHOT** 22 A Carroll 9-0 **C Lee**
12 (3) 500-4 **NAVY WREN** 19 M Dods 9-0 **C Rodriguez**

9-4 H Key Lails, 5-1 Moondial, 6-1 Red Fort, 7-1 Dame Laura Knight, 15-2 Gypsy Nation, 8-1 Panning For Gold, 12-1 Delayed Action, 16-1 others.

5.15 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,245: 1m 4f) (8)

1 (4) 000- **LITTLE TIGER** 216 W Stone 9-10 **H Doyle**
2 (6) 6-506 **SCHUMANN** 20 (P) R Hughes 9-8 **David Egan**
3 (1) 0600 **DAWN MISSION** 12 (B) G Boughey 9-6 **C Planas (5)**
4 (5) 0-662 **BAILAR CONTIGO** 20 S C Williams 9-6 **Rossa Ryan**
5 (8) 000 **PETITE SIOUX** 43 (T) Phillip Makin 9-3 **S James**
6 (3) 03322 **PHILOS** 7 (P) E Dunlop 9-2 **W Buick**
7 (7) 000-4 **OPTIK** 15 (B,BF) D M Simcock 9-1 **J P Spencer**
8 (2) 00-0 **CLEMENTYNE** 15 A Brown 9-0 **Rhiain Ingram (3)**

2-1 Philos, 9-4 Bailar Contigo, 4-1 Optik, 7-1 Schumann, 14-1 Little Tiger, Petite Sioux, 25-1 Dawn Mission, 33-1 Clementyne.

Yesterday's racing results

Carlisle

Going: good to firm (good in places)

2.00 (5f) 1, **Malc** (O J Orr, 13-8 jt-fav); 2, Kaolinite (7-2); 3, Parson's Meadow (33-1). 5 ran. NR: Tropical Air. 2¼l, 5l. R A Fahey.

2.35 (5f) 1, **Ramon Di Loria** (Ryan Sexton, 8-1); 2, Princess Karine (4-1 fav); 3, Huddle Up (5-1). 9 ran. Sh hd, 1½l. Ewan Whillans.

3.10 (5f 182yd) 1, **Papa Cocktail** (Callum Shepherd, 11-4); 2, Lord Abama (7-2); 3, Thaki (14-1). 7 ran. Nk, 2½l. Mrs Stella Barclay.

3.40 (7f 173yd) 1, **What's The Story** (Connor Beasley, 10-11 fav); 2, Detective (6-1); 3, Strongbowe (5-1). 6 ran. NR: Gainsbourg. Nk, ¾l. K Dalgleish.

4.10 (7f 173yd) 1, **Gone** (J Fanning, 9-1); 2, Hills Of Gold (6-1); 3, Sophia's Starlight (5-1). 9 ran. ½l, ¾l. Charlie Johnston.

4.40 (6f 195yd) 1, **Trueman** (D Nolan, 11-1); 2, Agnes Grey (3-1); 3, Inverlochy (11-10 fav). 11 ran. 2¾l, 2l. D O'Meara.

5.15 (1m 3f 39yd) 1, **Prince Achille** (J Garritty, 5-2 fav); 2, We Still Believe (7-2); 3, Chief Craftsman (14-1). 12 ran. Hd, ns. Jedd O'Keeffe.

Placepot: £37.30.

Quadpot: £7.60.

Ffos Las

Going: good

1.35 (2m 4f, hdle) 1, **King Alexander** (N de Boinville, 2-7 fav); 2, Cooleenymore (15-2); 3, Harrys Game (66-1). 8 ran. 8l, 9l. N J Henderson.

2.10 (2m 4f, hdle) 1, **Letterston Lady** (S Bowen, 5-4 fav); 2, Watergrange Jack (11-4); 3, Whatsupwithyou (11-4). 6 ran. NR: Stony Man. 1½l, 5l. P Bowen.

2.45 (2m 7f 191yd, hdle) 1, **Scrum Diddly** (Brendan Powell, 7-4 fav); 2, Ebony Gale (40-1); 3, Ahead Of The Field (11-2). 7 ran. 13l, 3l. O Sherwood.

3.20 (3m 3f 208yd, ch) 1, **Amateur** (Toby Wynne, 2-1 fav); 2, Coup De Pinceau (12-1); 3, Gwencily Berbas (9-2). 6 ran. NR: Nearly Perfect. 6½l, 13l. J L Flint.

3.50 (1m 7f 182yd, hdle) 1, **Nibras Gold** (Jack Tudor, 7-2); 2, John Betjeman (9-4 fav); 3, Cumhacht (9-2). 8 ran. NR: Gavin, Karannelle. 2l, 8l. D Pipe.

4.20 (2m 7f 177yd, ch) 1, **Easkey Lad** (Ben Jones, 17-2); 2, Unblinking (6-1); 3, O'Faolains Lad (14-1). 11 ran. NR: First Class Return, Tudors Treasure. 2l, 17l. Miss R Curtis.

4.50 (1m 7f 182yd, flat) 1, **Walk Of The Roses** (Jack Tudor, 11-8); 2, Gladys Eva Jane (12-1); 3, Quite The Getaway (11-10 fav). 6 ran. NR: Aston Martini, Gone Away Madam, Madam Ryder, Wendy Byrde. 1¾l, 1¼l. D Pipe.

Placepot: £27.50.

Quadpot: £13.80.

Redcar

Going: good

1.50 (5f 217yd) 1, **Arc Shadowfax** (D Swift, 5-1); 2, Chumbaa (3-1 fav); 3, Stamper (4-1). 10 ran. 2¼l, 5l. S Spencer.

2.20 (5f 217yd) 1, **Chaturanga** (Hollie Doyle, 5-4 fav); 2, Up The Jazz (5-1); 3, Miss Rainbow (33-1). 9 ran. NR: Nelson Rose. 7½l, 1l. A Watson.

2.55 (7f 219yd) 1, **Milteye** (Kevin Stott, 11-8 fav); 2, Paradise Row (3-1); 3, Owners Dream (11-2). 5 ran. NR: Hat Toss, Sea Girt. 4l, 1½l. Jack Channon.

3.30 (7f 219yd) 1, **Senesi** (Daniel Muscutt, 13-8 fav); 2, Alethiometer (8-1); 3, Violeta (11-1). 11 ran. 1½l, 1½l. K P De Foy.

4.00 (5f) 1, **Zuffolo** (Callum Rodriguez, 15-2); 2, Let's Go Hugo (13-2); 3, Belsito (15-8 fav). 7 ran. NR: Borough, Cinque Verde. 1½l, ns. M Dods.

4.30 (5f) 1, **Grace Angel** (Jason Watson, 11-4); 2, Good Earth (13-2); 3, Ready Freddie Go (10-1). 7 ran. 2¾l, 4¾l. Darryll Holland.

5.05 (7f) 1, **Mr Jetman** (Sam James, 11-10 fav); 2, Thornaby Beauty (6-1); 3, Dresden Green (80-1). 15 ran. ¾l, 3½l. Grant Tuer.

5.40 (1m 5f 218yd) 1, **Galilaeus** (Hector Crouch, 1-2 fav); 2, A Day To Dream (12-1); 3, Michael's Pledge (13-2). 9 ran. 5½l, ¾l. R M Beckett.

Placepot: £57.80. **Quadpot: £40.90.**

Market Rasen

Going: good

5.45 (2m 7f 16yd, hdle) 1, **Another Mystery** (Bryony Frost, 13-2); 2, Doyouknowwhatimean (2-1); 3, La Pagerie (13-2). 5 ran. 18l, 8l. L Wadham.

6.15 (2m 2f 140yd, hdle) 1, **Stowaway Jess** (C Brace, 5-6 fav); 2, Teeceethree (6-1); 3, Noonie (9-2). 5 ran. 9l, 1½l. F O'Brien.

6.45 (2m 7f 191yd, ch) 1, **Chief Black Robe** (Mr Tom Broughton, 3-1); 2, Whataboutyeh (2-1 fav); 3, Classic Lady (4-1). 7 ran. 27l, 7l. F O'Brien.

7.15 (2m 3f 34yd, ch) 1, **And The New** (Adam Wedge, 7-2); 2, Ridgeway (7-2); 3, High Noon (10-1). 5 ran. 18l, 4¾l. L Morgan.

7.45 (2m 4f 139yd, hdle) 1, **Headscarf Lil** (Sean Quinlan, 9-2); 2, Magna Moralia (12-1); 3, Let Me Be (17-2). 6 ran. ¾l, ns. N G Richards.

8.15 (2m 125yd, hdle) 1, **Tonyx** (C J Todd, 10-3); 2, Prospect House (5-1); 3, Supreme Yeats (16-5). 6 ran. NR: Zamond. 2½l, 11l. Miss A Murphy.

8.45 (2m 125yd, flat) 1, **Denburn** (G Sheehan, 5-2); 2, Colonel Whizz (6-4 fav); 3, Jour D'evasion (5-2). 6 ran. NR: Mr Zippi. 11l, sh hd. A King.

Placepot: £248.00. **Quadpot: £75.40.**

Windsor

Going: good to firm

5.00 (5f 21yd) 1, **Glamorous Breeze** (William Cox, 11-2); 2, Whats In The Bag (17-2); 3, Lil Guff (6-1). 7 ran. NR: Tolstoy. 1l, ¾l. C Mason.

5.35 (6f 12yd) 1, **Perfect View** (Benoit D L Sayette, 7-2); 2, Duely Spiced (13-2); 3, Cherry Hill (5-1). 8 ran. NR: Bits And Bobs, Orange Rosetta. 1¾l, 1¼l. George Scott.

6.05 (6f 12yd) 1, **Cry Fiction** (Rob Hornby, 20-1); 2, Too Much Trevor (11-8 fav); 3, Lady Ava (9-1). 9 ran. Nk, 2l. J G Portman.

6.35 (6f 12yd) 1, **Haymaker** (Rob Hornby, 10-3 jt-fav); 2, Spanish Star (10-1); 3, Indian Creak (5-1). 9 ran. NR: May Sonic. ¾l, 1¾l. H Morrison.

7.05 (1m 31yd) 1, **High Spirited** (Dane O'Neill, 11-1); 2, Wind In Your Sails (7-2 fav); 3, Golden Smile (4-1). 13 ran. NR: Value Added. ¾l, 2¾l. H Candy.

7.35 (1m 3f 99yd) 1, **Saligo Bay** (Rhys Clutterbuck, 10-3 fav); 2, Lexington Knight (7-1); 3, Noble Masquerade (11-1). 10 ran. ¾l, nk. G L Moore.

8.05 (1m 3f 99yd) 1, **Brave Knight** (L Morris, 11-4 fav); 2, Bulldog Spirit (6-1); 3, Hurtle (13-2). 8 ran. ½l, 2l. Sir Mark Prescott.

8.35 (1m 2f) 1, **Trojan Truth** (T E Whelan, 10-1); 2, Sun Festival (9-2 jt-fav); 3, Gearing's Point (5-1). 14 ran. NR: Duchess, Ocean Reach. Nk, nk. E De Giles.

Placepot: £551.60. **Quadpot: £14.40.**

D-day looms for stricken London Irish

Historic club have only a week remaining to find answer to financial struggles, **Will Kelleher** and **Alex Lowe** report

London Irish are on the brink of collapse. The RFU has set the club a hard deadline of May 30 to prove their viability for next season or be suspended from the English league pyramid.

One of two things must happen by next Tuesday if London Irish, who do not own their own stadium and are saddled with £30 million of debt, are to be saved:

- a proposed takeover by an American consortium, which has been in discussion since last October, is completed and approved by the RFU; or
- the present owners of the club demonstrate they will continue to fund the club through the 2023-24 season.

Fail and London Irish will become the third professional club this season to collapse after Worcester Warriors and Wasps.

WILL LONDON IRISH SURVIVE?

Not one senior official in the English game has any confidence that the takeover will amount to anything. The consortium has missed multiple deadlines set by the RFU to provide key documentation, including proof of funds.

The RFU must approve any takeover and the union first requested information from the prospective owners five months ago.

It has emerged in recent days that the consortium is headed up by Alfred "Chip" Sloan, an American former sports agent who previously expressed an interest in buying Saracens but did not close the deal.

A group of former NBA and NFL players are part of the consortium's leadership team.

One industry source said that the deal should have been thrown out on day one if the consortium was unable to demonstrate its funds, business plan and investors from the outset.

It is understood that the RFU has been frustrated by a series of unfulfilled commitments from the consortium, including statements that payments had been sent when they had not. The consortium has insisted there will be "big progress" in the coming days but it was unable to provide any evidence to support its "great positivity".

Regarding the second demand, there is a widespread expectation that Mick Crossan, who owns London Irish via his company Powerday, will not be prepared to continue bankrolling the club. The average losses of a Gallagher Premiership club each year are £4 million. London Irish do not have the facility to generate income outside match days as they do not own a stadium.

In March, Crossan had to find emergency funds to cover the club's monthly wage bill of £500,000. The April salaries were paid a week late, minutes before the players were due to hand in breach-of-contract letters.

The most likely situation now is that Irish are suspended next Tuesday and drop out of the league, meaning the Premiership becomes a ten-team division a year earlier than planned.

"We need a miracle," one source said. "I think it's game over," added another.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MAY 30?

The prospective buyers must state to the RFU in the next few days who the owners of the club would be, so that an external agency can complete a due diligence check before the May 30 deadline passes.

If the deadline is not met, London Irish will be suspended from the Premiership and could drop into administration, with the players permitted to leave. The club themselves, or one of their creditors, can place them into administration, not the RFU.

Player and staff salaries are due on May 31. If the wages are not paid and the club are still a going concern, players would have to submit breach-of-contract letters to be able to leave. That would give the club 14 days to come up with the money before players can walk away.

However, the players have been in talks with the Rugby Players Association (RPA), trying to clarify whether they could leave immediately after the club are suspended. Matt Rogerson, the captain, has been leading the discussions with executives and the RPA.

Players have been lining up moves elsewhere for a number of weeks. It is understood that some of Irish's England internationals have a "respectable queue of quality employers" ready to sign them; others have secured provisional moves to France.

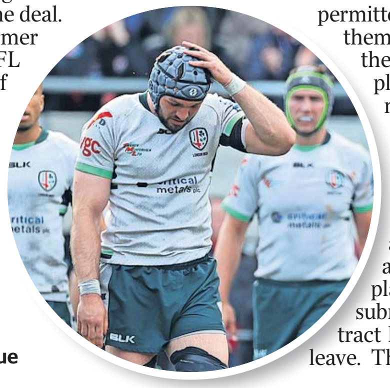
COULD LONDON IRISH RETURN?

If this situation follows the Wasps blueprint from October, the collapse of the club could be brutally quick. Wasps entered administration and made 167 people redundant on the same day.

With other Premiership squads tight and the salary cap reduced to £5 million, from £6.4 million, there will be little room for players in the league.

One idea is that the surviving ten Premiership clubs could be given dispensation to sign Irish players and afforded extra salary-cap space. A benevolent fund could also be set up.

London Irish can be bought out from administration. If that happens, they would not be eligible for the 2023-24 season in any league.



There will be little room for Irish's players in the league

CHRIS HYDE/GETTY IMAGES



Vunipola did not play in the Six Nations after struggling in last year's autumn internationals, but he can offer England a different dimension in the back row

'Billy comes back well from injuries like this one'

CONTINUED FROM BACK

fully in the middle of August at the latest," Mark McCall, the Saracens director of rugby, said. "There is a long time until the World Cup. Billy historically comes back from these injuries really well. He's able to train and is training hard at the moment. I think he'll be in the right condition to go to the World Cup — it's whether Steve is prepared to pick him or not."

The official deadline for submitting World Cup squads to the tournament organisers is August 28.

Vunipola has not been an England regular since the Six Nations of 2021, when his form suffered after Saracens had been relegated to the Championship for salary cap offences.

He was recalled by Eddie Jones for the summer tour of Australia last year and his performances grew by the game as England won the series 2-1.

But Vunipola failed to make an impact in the November Tests and Borthwick, who replaced Jones as head coach in December, omitted him from England's Six Nations squad. Nevertheless, England know that if they can get Vunipola on song then he would change the dynamic of their back row. Borthwick's other No 8 options are all athletic carriers rather than bulldozers, although Tom Willis has been doing a good job of moving some heavy defenders during an impressive season with Bordeaux-Bègles in the Top 14.

After two years at Montpellier, Zach Mercer is eligible for the World Cup having signed for Gloucester, while Alex Dombrandt wore the No 8 jersey in the Six Nations, although he has come close to being dropped by Borthwick.

Vunipola told The Sunday Times recently that he was determined to make it back into England colours. "I've got to 68 caps and I'd say probably [in] only half of those games I've come off and felt like I've really done well," he said. "That's what's driving me on now."

McCall confirmed the Gallagher Premiership final on Saturday had come too soon for Andy Christie, the Scotland flanker who is recovering from a broken arm.

Jockey Club seeks High Court ruling to tackle Derby protests

Racing

The Jockey Club is seeking a High Court injunction to prevent protestors disrupting the Derby Festival at Epsom next month.

The organisation, which owns Epsom Downs along with many other high-profile tracks, says that it has been forced to act after activists from Animal Rising continued to make it "explicitly clear" that they intend to breach security at the Surrey racecourse to protest.

The Grand National at Aintree last month was delayed by a little over ten minutes by animal welfare protesters, with attempts to disrupt the Scottish National at Ayr the following weekend thwarted by police and security staff.

Officials now fear planned disruption at Epsom may endanger participants, racegoers and horses, although they have stated they do not dismiss the right to peaceful protest and have offered Animal Rising an area near the entrance of the racecourse specifically for this purpose on Derby day.

The sought injunction would prohibit people from entering on to the racetrack and carrying out other acts with the intention of disrupting the races.

Such acts include intentionally causing objects to enter the racetrack, entering the parade ring, entering and/or remaining on the horses' route to the parade ring and to the racetrack without authorisation, and intentionally endangering any person at the course during the two-day festival.

If the injunction is granted, anyone breaching the court order could be subject to proceedings for contempt of court, which may lead to a fine and/or imprisonment.

A High Court hearing, which will rule on whether to grant the injunction, has been scheduled to take place on Friday. Nevin Truesdale, chief executive of the Jockey Club, said: "We respect everyone's right to peaceful and lawful protest.

"However, Animal Rising have made it explicitly clear that they intend to breach security and access the track itself in an attempt to stop racing taking place and it is our duty and obligation to do everything we can to protect everyone's safety and prevent a repeat of the illegal and reckless protests we saw at Aintree in April.

"As such the decision to apply for an injunction is a course of action we have been forced to take and is the result of careful consideration following consultation with Surrey Police and a number of stakeholders.

"If successful, this would be just one of a range of robust security measures we are implementing to ensure the event can go ahead safely."

Franchise friends take edge off Ashes

International rivals are also club team-mates, so sledging should be less nasty – and cricket is better for it, writes **Steve James**





TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER MARC ASPLAND

Australia's Warne congratulates England's Pietersen after he earned a draw, and clinched the series, in the fifth Test in 2005

24
Days until the start of the Ashes
First Test, Edgbaston June 16-20

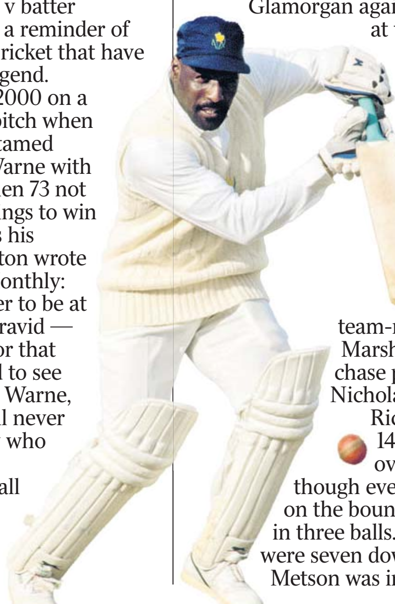
'It is a big showdown this week" the Glamorgan Twitter feed said before their County Championship meeting with Sussex, which pitted Marnus Labuschagne against his Australia team-mate Steve Smith.

And it really was marvellous to see the world's first and third-ranked Test batsmen scoring runs in a county match — a Division Two match, no less — with Ollie Robinson, Cheteshwar Pujara and Michael Neser showing their international class too. The likes of Sussex's James Coles and Glamorgan's Kiran Carlson also proved their worth in such company, with Robinson's injury scare the only downside of a contest of rare quality.

It had also been fantastic to witness the two fast bowlers with the most Test wickets, James Anderson (685) and Stuart Broad (576), facing each other in the Lancashire versus Nottinghamshire match recently. Broad helped to save the game for his side by scoring three off 50 balls, a far cry from his role of "nighthawk" with England, in which he alters the traditional nightwatchman's job from defending and protecting into something much more attacking.

Both Anderson and Broad have bowled at Essex's Alastair Cook too, and while Labuschagne against Smith and Anderson against Broad were not the classic bowler v batter confrontations, it was a reminder of past duels in county cricket that have become the stuff of legend.

Take the match in 2000 on a turning Portsmouth pitch when India's Rahul Dravid tamed Hampshire's Shane Warne with a masterful 137 and then 73 not out in the second innings to win the game for Kent. As his team-mate David Fulton wrote for Wisden Cricket Monthly: "For a county cricketer to be at the other end from Dravid — not that I was there for that long, of course — and to see him doing battle with Warne, that was a privilege I'll never forget. This was a guy who had been brought up against spin bringing all his skill to bear against one of the greatest spinners of all time on a dusty one, and defying him."



Richards got the better of Marshall in their county clash

The former Hampshire captain Mark Nicholas has always said that Viv Richards's 164 not out for Glamorgan against his side at the old Southampton ground at Northlands Road in 1990 was "the greatest innings I ever saw first hand". Facing his West Indies team-mate Malcolm Marshall in a run chase prompted by Nicholas's declaration, Richards required 14 off the final over and, even though every fielder was on the boundary, he did it in three balls. "The Welsh were seven down and Colin Metson was in," Nicholas wrote in Cricinfo's Cricket Monthly. "So I said to Malcolm, 'With all of us on the fence, Viv gets a single and you have five balls at Metson and the rest, who can't bat. We might even win.'" Viv had other ideas. "'As if he'd have taken the single anyway,' said Macko [Marshall] in the bar at ten o'clock that night," Nicholas wrote.

Two greats delivering a great story. Coming up against friends and colleagues in top-level sport is always interesting. Wasim Akram's consistent approach to facing his Lancashire colleague, our very own Mike Atherton, in Test cricket was simply to bowl a barrage of bumpers. Nice.

Knowledge is shared, so you can be pretty sure that last week Smith had told his Sussex team-mates that Labuschagne is an early leg-before candidate, and Robinson duly got his man in that manner with the first ball he bowled at him in the match.

But meeting friends in a pressurised environment can go wrong. Warne was with Hampshire when Kevin Pietersen made his England Test debut in 2005, and an enduring memory from that magnificent series is of Warne congratulating Pietersen as his mate left the field after a series-clinching 158 in the fifth Test, at the Oval. By the next Ashes down under, though, Warne had been ordered to change his tune, prompting a serious relationship breakdown. Twice in the first innings of the first Test, at Brisbane, Warne threw the ball at Pietersen, provoking a torrent of invective from both parties. "I let myself down, and Shane and I let our friendship down," Pietersen wrote in his autobiography.

They made up later, but I have always thought that the arrival at Hampshire of Warne in 2000 and then as captain between 2004 and 2007 — as well as Glenn McGrath at Worcestershire for the entire 2000 season and the likes of Darren Lehmann at Yorkshire and Michael Hussey at Northamptonshire — changed the mental landscape for a lot of English cricketers. Yes, Warne and McGrath often sledged relentlessly, but this was a period of demythification, a time to get to know these men, to learn that they were not superhuman but possessed as many doubts as the rest of us.

English cricket is still reaping the benefits of Warne's time in county cricket because the Kent captain at the time, Rob Key, became good friends with him. The whole cricketing philosophy of Key, now the ECB's managing director of men's cricket, has been shaped by Warne. Ben Stokes captains very much as Warne did for Hampshire, and Brendon McCullum coaches as Warne might have done for an international team, once he had changed his John Buchanan-induced opinion of a coach merely being something that takes you to the ground before a match.

The Ashes of the 1990s and early 2000s had been a horrible time for England. Victims of unending hammerings, the players had mainly ceased to socialise with the Australians because of the on-field abuse and the feeling that the touring team simply did not respect our game.

In 1989 the Australia captain Allan Border, who had played for Essex and knew most of the England team well, had begun that period of hard-nosed antipathy, perhaps best shown by his reply to Robin Smith asking for a glass of water during the fifth Test. "No, you f***ing can't. What do you think this is, a f***ing tea party?" he said.

But Mark Butcher has spoken of how meeting some of the Australians for a chance drink in the 2001 series enabled him to understand them more, and ultimately helped him to score his marvellous unbeaten 173 to win the Headingley Test in that series.

The wider truth here is that everyone knows everyone in world cricket these days. The game is much friendlier, and that is all down to the IPL and its franchise offshoots, which have regularly brought players together from different countries.

Pietersen was ahead of his time in this regard as he fought a battle to persuade the English game, its cricketers and indeed us in the media of the benefits of the IPL. "I've built all my relationships with foreign cricketers while in the IPL," he wrote. "In the England dressing room when people say things like, 'Right, let's sort this bastard,' I find myself saying, 'Who? No, no, no, he's a good guy.'"

Of course, with inevitable flashpoints there will still be words in the Ashes this summer, but they will not be as premeditated, nasty or personal as they once were. As Smith has said: "People talk so much about sledging and stuff, but very little happens these days. Probably it has a lot to do with things like the IPL that bring together players from all around the world. If you get stuck into someone one day, you might be playing with them a few days later."

And as Pietersen wrote of his spat with Warne: "There are people who still think that sort of carry-on is the proper order of things. It's not."

Indeed, it is not. Cricket has certainly grown, but thankfully, it has also grown up.

Woods comeback on hold as he pulls out of US Open

Golf Tiger Woods has officially withdrawn from next month's US Open at Los Angeles Country Club.

Woods pulled out of the Masters during the third round in April, saying at the time that it was due to plantar fasciitis — a problem with the tissue in his foot. However, the 47-year-old then had an operation to address an issue caused by a previous fracture of his talus, a bone in the ankle joint.

The 15-times major winner did not contest the recent US PGA Championship at Oak Hill and the USGA confirmed he will also miss the US Open while announcing that 33 more players are now exempt for the year's third major.

Twenty-five of those players earned their place courtesy of being ranked in the world's top 60, including world No 18 Tyrrell Hatton and the major winners Patrick Reed and Jason Day.

Woods made a remarkable return at last year's Masters 14 months after a serious car crash, but he withdrew from the US PGA having carded a third-round 79 and skipped the US Open before missing the cut in the 150th Open at St Andrews. He will hope to defy the odds to compete in July's Open at Royal Liverpool.

Jones pulls off Paris upset

Tennis Fran Jones produced an outstanding performance at Roland Garros to reach the second round of French Open qualifying. The British No 10 from Bradford defeated the American Coco Vandeweghe, who is ranked 152 places above her, 6-3, 6-3.

It continued the 22-year-old Jones's return to form after an injury-plagued 2022. Vandeweghe reached the Australian and US Open semi-finals in 2017, but Jones dominated a match that lasted an hour and 11 minutes.

Ryan Peniston, the British No 7, beat Turkey's Altug Celikbilek 6-4, 6-2 to end an eight-match losing streak.

Hazlewood fit for Australia

Cricket The Australia bowler Josh Hazlewood is expected to be fit for the World Test Championship final against India and the Ashes despite cutting his Indian Premier League campaign short.

Hazlewood, 32, returned to Australia because of "minor side soreness" after a match for Royal Challengers Bangalore two weeks ago. Cricket Australia said he has now returned to "high intensity bowling" after a brief and precautionary rest period. "Hazlewood is considered fit and available for the WTC and Ashes series," it said in a statement.

AI used to protect players

Tennis French Open organisers will use artificial intelligence to protect players from social media abuse.

In the first initiative of its kind, the French Tennis Federation (FFT) is using AI technology Bodyguard, which filters out abusive comments on social media platforms. Players have frequently highlighted the horrific messages they receive after losses, often from gamblers who have lost money betting on them.

Caroline Flaissier, director of the FFT, said: "The mental health of the players is a priority for the Roland Garros tournament."

ANTONIO CALANNI/AP



Cavendish, who cited a desire to spend more time with his young family, announced his upcoming retirement flanked by his children (from left to right) Casper, Delilah, Astrid and Frey, as well as his wife Peta

Cavendish to give Tour one last go

British sprinter is set to retire after masterful – but under-appreciated – career in the saddle, writes **Elgan Alderman**

Mark Cavendish will retire from cycling at the end of this season, giving him one final Tour de France to break the record for the most stage wins in his sport's most fabled race.

Cavendish, 38, used the final rest day of the Giro d'Italia, where he is racing with Astana Qazaqstan, to announce his departure. The "Manx Missile" will leave as the greatest sprinter his sport has produced, one of only two British men to have been world road champion. He has 34 stage wins at the Tour de France, putting him level with Eddy Merckx, and is set to have one last crack at overhauling the great Belgian in July. His farewell race has yet to be decided.

"It's been a brutal couple of weeks here in Italy for riders, teams, organisers and fans, but more importantly for the people of Emilia-Romagna who have been affected by far more than a wet bike race," Cavendish said, surrounded by his wife and children, citing the flooding that has affected Italy.



Cavendish celebrates pulling level with Merckx in 2021

"Like many of us, I've been struggling with sickness during the race, on top of some effects from unfortunate crashes, but I've had an absolutely incredible group of people around me with Astana Qazaqstan to get me through and I cannot thank this group of friends enough for the support and the memories we're creating here. We tried and will continue to try to get a victory I believe we can achieve this Giro.

"Cycling has been my life for over 25 years. I've lived an absolute dream. The bike's given me opportunities to see the world, meet incredible people, both involved and not involved with the sport, a lot of whom I'm proud to now call friends.

"It has taught me so much about life, about dedication, loyalty, companionship and teamwork, sacrifice, humility and perseverance. All important things now, as a father, I can show my children. Today is my son Casper's fifth birthday, I'm fortunate it's a rest day and I can see my beautiful family and spend his birthday with him. I think it's important and now I can be there every birthday for my wife, Peta, and all our children.

"It's important I can see all their school concerts and support them in their sporting competitions, and it's important I can run around with them without fear of injury or getting sick."

Cavendish has 161 professional victories, putting him 115 clear of the next-best British man. When he raced his first grand tour in 2007, his was not a nation expected to do well: by winning two stages of the 2008 Giro, Cavendish doubled the total number of victories by Britons in the race's history, and he surged past Barry Hoban's tally of eight Tour stage wins the next year.

He joined Team Sky for the 2012 edition. His sprinting ambitions were secondary to the general classification aims of Bradley Wiggins, who became the first Briton to win the Tour de France outright, though the future knight of the realm helped Cavendish to a fourth successive win on the final stage on the Champs-Élysées. Chris Froome (2013, 2015-17) and Geraint Thomas (2018) continued the team's golden era, and their overall success in the race was an easier shorthand for laymen to understand than Cavendish's diet of daily wins but no Yellow Jersey. Wiggins has retired but Froome, 38, rides with Israel-Premier Tech, and Thomas, 36, is in contention for overall victory at the Giro with Ineos Grenadiers, Sky's successors.

In British eyes, at least, Cavendish also suffered from a lack of Olympic glory, a status quo at which he bristled. Going into the 2008 and 2012 Games as world champion in his events, he missed out on a medal in the madison and road race, before getting a silver in the omnium in 2016.

His place in grand tour history

Cavendish shares the record for most stage wins at the Tour de France with Merckx. Barry Hoban (eight) is the next-best British cyclist

Rider	Tour de France stage wins
Mark Cavendish (2008-21)	34
Eddy Merckx (1969-75)	34
Bernard Hinault (1978-86)	28
André Leducq (1927-38)	25
André Darrigade (1953-64)	22
Nicolas Frantz (1924-29)	20
François Faber (1908-14)	19
Jean Alavoine (1909-23)	17

Cavendish has 53 stage wins at the three grand tours. Only Eddy Merckx (63) and Mario Cipollini (57) have more

	Tour de France	Giro d'Italia	La Vuelta
2008	4	2	
2009	6	3	
2010	5		3
2011	5	2	
2012	3	3	
2013	2	5	
2014			
2015	1		
2016	4		
2017-20			
2021	4		
2022		1	
2023			

Cavendish was a man whose cycling could do the talking. His numbers on a stationary bike and 5ft 9in stature made him an unlikely "fastest man on two wheels", but in a sprint with a finish line in sight, no one had his speed and tactical acumen. However, he was also happy to give verbal demonstrations of his passion and belief in his ability.

Angered by defeat, he had a Michael Jordan-esque ability to zero in on "ignoramuses" — whether real or not — belittling his achievements compared with the serial Olympic champions, or questioning the challenges of sprinting. "Every day sprinters have to give it full gas, but on a flat day a climber can sit in the peloton and take it easy," he said. "Every flat day, rolling day and mountain day, the sprinters have to be ready to give full gas — just to get through. You have to work harder."

He was sometimes the pantomime villain, allegedly the "assassin" who caused crashes at the Tour, and in 2013 he had urine thrown at him.

At the 2008 Tour of California, Mario Cipollini, aged 40 and one of cycling's most successful sprinters, watched Cavendish speed past while using only one leg to pedal. It was intended as a joke but led to accusations of disrespect.

Epstein-Barr virus, which causes glandular fever, threatened to end his career before a remarkable comeback at the 2021 Tour. Stuck on 30 stages since 2016, Cavendish won four times to put himself level with Merckx. What are the chances of one final "Cav day", a win at the Tour when no one expects it? "If I was on 45 wins on the Tour, I'd still be going to the Tour de France to win," he said.

Liverpool want referees' chiefs to explain Gakpo decisions

Football
Paul Joyce
Northern Football Correspondent

Liverpool are seeking clarification from refereeing chiefs over the decision to disallow Cody Gakpo's strike in the 1-1 draw with Aston Villa on Saturday.

The Anfield club have also asked Professional Game Match Officials Limited (PGMOL) for the reasons why the Villa defender Tyrone Mings was not sent off for a high challenge that left Gakpo with stud marks across his chest.

Liverpool were left baffled at the decision to rule out Gakpo's second-half strike, with the referee, John Brooks, determining after a lengthy VAR consultation that the Villa defender Ezri Konsa had not deliberately played the ball to Virgil van Dijk, who was in an offside position. But Liverpool, who trailed 1-0 at the time before Roberto Firmino's late equaliser, were convinced that replays showed Konsa's action was a deliberate movement, which would have played Van Dijk onside.

Now Liverpool have formally raised the matter with PGMOL, the elite referees' body, while at the same time seeking further information on the first-half flashpoint when Mings's boot caught Gakpo in the midriff. The Villa and England defender was given only a yellow card by Brooks, despite pictures showing abrasions on Gakpo's chest.



Gakpo reveals the marks on his midriff caused by Mings's studs

The draw ended a run of seven consecutive league wins for Jürgen Klopp's side, who had threatened to catch Manchester United in fourth. But after the Manchester club's victory on Saturday, United need only one point from their last two games — Chelsea and Fulham at home — to consign Liverpool to the Europa League, a competition Klopp's side have not played in since his first season in charge in 2015-16.

Meanwhile, Jörg Schmadtke will sign a short-term deal to become Liverpool's new sporting director this week. The 59-year-old is coming out of retirement to work alongside Klopp as the club prepare for a summer that will involve making some key signings.

Schmadtke, whom Klopp knows from Germany, left Wolfsburg in January but has been enticed back by the prospect of working at Liverpool. He is replacing the outgoing sporting director, Julian Ward, who was officially in the role for a year. The deal will come with an option to extend it should both parties be happy.

Silk pyjamas on a night out show Haaland is on trend

Hannah Rogers



Assistant Fashion Editor

To the victor go the spoils — and so, in the case of Erling Haaland it seems, do the silk separates. Not for the Norway super-striker the uniform dark jeans and designer jackets preferred by his team-mates. At a party on Sunday evening to celebrate Manchester City's Premier League title win he wore his much preferred — and somewhat more laid back — mode of glad rags. Yes, I am talking about the pyjamas.

He wears them out to dinner. He has slipped them on aboard private jets — not for napping in, you understand, but to pose for selfies. He likes to take his co-ord-robe on holiday and now his girlfriend has a matching pair too: when Haaland stepped out on Sunday evening in a powder blue pair of silk jim-jams, his other half, Isabel Johansen, was in a frilly nightdress of the same design.

The outfit was somewhat understated compared with his other matching sets — even with the "EH" cursive pocket embroidery (nice touch). The fact is, Haaland is becoming as well known for his flamboyant co-ords as his left foot. They are as hard to miss as he appears to find the goal: more often than not they come in bright, garish patterns and have larger-than-life price tags.



SPLASH NEWS; EAMONN AND JAMES CLARKE

Haaland and his girlfriend, Johansen, step out in matching nightwear to celebrate City's title victory with his team-mates on Sunday evening

One in his possession, a geometric print style from Dolce & Gabbana, costs £2,410. Another in red stripes is £1,000. He has iterations from Burberry and a three-piece set with a matching bucket hat that hails from the luxury French fashion house Louis Vuitton. All in, his collective co-ord-robe value has been estimated to have almost as many figures as his weekly pay cheque.

That's because they aren't pyjamas as you and I understand them, but high fashion co-ordinating separates. These matching silky tops and bottoms are for showing off, not snoozing in.

Still, you may wonder what Haaland is thinking. I hear you — these are strong looks. But speaking as an expert on such matters, I can confirm he is on trend. The style set wears similar takes to parties with heels; I have a navy pair I like to outfit with trainers.

Look to the high street for further evidence of the fashion pyjama's ubiquity: affordable versions abound on rails from Zara to Asda. It wouldn't surprise me if Haaland's sartorial efforts land him a seat on fashion week's front row. He certainly has the right look.

As to why he likes these get-ups, I have my suspicions (namely that they are as comfortable as the tracksuits he spends much of his time in). Next is that his flair simply extends off the pitch. His Zoolander-esque fashion choices make him stand out from his fellow footballers because they are somewhat outré, yes — but they are indicative of something even more attractive than his ball skills: a sense of humour.

UK officials get finals

All four European club finals will have British representation after the officials were confirmed for the games. Anthony Taylor will referee the Europa League final between Sevilla and Roma in Budapest on May 31 with his compatriots, Gary Beswick and Adam Nunn, as the assistants.

The Women's Champions League final between Barcelona and Wolfsburg in Eindhoven on June 3 will be officiated by the Welsh referee, Cheryl Foster.

Manchester City and West Ham United are in the finals of the Champions League and Europa Conference League respectively.

Juve docked ten points

Juventus' chances of qualifying for next season's Champions League have been hit after they received a ten-point penalty for false accounting.

The Italian club have dropped from second to seventh in Serie A, five points behind AC Milan in the final qualifying spot. Things got worse for them when they lost to Empoli last night.

Juventus were given a 15-point penalty in January but Italy's highest sports court overturned that decision and the new ruling was announced yesterday.

England's winning start

England beat Tunisia 1-0 in their first game at the Under-20 World Cup last night.

Dane Scarlett's first-half header proved to be enough for England in La Plata, Argentina. Tunisia had few opportunities to equalise during their group E match.

"We controlled the game from start to finish. It is true we could have been a bit more ruthless, though," Ian Foster, the England head coach, said. "The boys were a little nervous, it is normal for the first game. There was a lot of anticipation for this tournament."

Revival guru Slot can thrive at Spurs

Dutch boss combines intensity, invention and inspiration, as one of his former players tells **Arthur Renard**

Tottenham Hotspur fans wondering whether Arne Slot can lead a rebuild only need to look back to last summer.

When Feyenoord reached the Europa Conference League final last season there was a lot of excitement in Rotterdam, as the team assembled by Slot had made huge strides. With a small budget, they had beaten teams such as Union Berlin, Slavia Prague and Marseille.

Defeat in the final by José Mourinho's Roma heralded an exodus of players who had been crucial to the rise of the team. Feyenoord's run in Europe meant players were in demand and seven of the starting XI left, with the Premier League the destination for the likes of Marcos Senesi (Bournemouth), Luis Sinisterra (Leeds United) and Tyrell Malacia (Manchester United).

It felt like Slot — who has emerged as the leading contender to be the next Tottenham head coach — had to start all over again, something that was illustrated in their first pre-season game, which they lost 7-0 to Copenhagen. It made for some worrying questions, but the person who seemed the least worried was Slot himself. He stayed calm, knowing that reinforcements would arrive, given that Feyenoord had received plenty of funds through player sales.

But still — Slot had to rebuild and the search for new players was made more difficult when the technical director Frank Arnesen had to step away because of health problems. Yet, the foundations were in place and Feyenoord managed to build a new team that would convincingly win the Dutch title. Players such as Santiago Giménez, Sebastian Szymanski and Mats Wieffer were signed for nominal fees, but have become the pillars of the team.

Feyenoord have been far more resourceful than their rivals. They spent £30 million on players this year, whereas Ajax — winners of the previous three Dutch titles — parted with almost £100 million. Last March, Feyenoord won away to Ajax for the first time on their way to winning the Eredivisie at a canter. Their only league defeat came in September when they lost 4-3 away to PSV Eindhoven.

Bryan Linssen, among those who left last summer, isn't surprised by the sustained rise of Feyenoord. Linssen, now playing for Urawa Red Diamonds in Japan, knew Slot would install an attacking style when he arrived in 2021. He previously did so when in charge of AZ Alkmaar, who were level on points with the leaders Ajax in the 2019-2020 season, which was cancelled due to the pandemic.

"We were playing a different style at Feyenoord before, slightly more defensive," Linssen says. "Slot said, 'I want you to play with high intensity, so we will train on putting on high pressure and everyone has to commit 100 per cent. Everyone has to put pressure at the same time, no one can lag behind.'

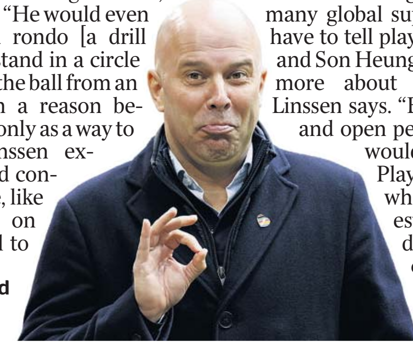
"He expressed to us that we had to be fitter than our opponents. We didn't just do running for the sake of running, but it was mixed into training games. Then in those games it was about high pressure and sprinting. And when you would lose possession, it was about running to regain the ball. That's how you get a high intensity and then you can apply that into matches as well."

Inspiration came from watching videos of Manchester City. "I remember one particular clip of Raheem Sterling in the Champions League final between City and Chelsea [in 2021]," Linssen adds. "You see Sterling sprinting back 70 metres to make a defensive action, which prevented a goal. Also, in regards to high pressure, we watched footage of City. Slot argued, 'This is the intensity we need.'"

Behind every training exercise, there is an idea. "He would even let you play a rondo [a drill where players stand in a circle and try to keep the ball from an opponent] with a reason behind it, not just only as a way to warm up," Linssen explains. "It would contain an exercise, like the insistence on passing the ball to someone's strongest foot." Sometimes, there is an element of surprise to Slot's approach. When playing against teams who would sit deep, Linssen could be relieved from any tactical duties: "He would tell me that I wasn't a normal striker, but a striker with a free role which I could fulfil the way I liked, with my own runs, to cause confusion and to create space."

As well as his tactical astuteness, Linssen praises Slot's man-management: "He is a very normal and social person with a good heart. Very calm and he wouldn't do any crazy things; very down to earth. It's clear that he is the boss who decides, but if you were going into his office, you were not dreading the conversation."

Could Slot replicate this strategy in the Premier League, where there are many global superstars? "You don't have to tell players like Harry Kane and Son Heung-min how to play, it's more about managing people," Linssen says. "But Slot is an honest and open person, so I think that would work there as well. Players appreciate it when a manager is honest. Of course, it's still a different footballing culture in England, but I think he would do very well in the Premier League."



Slot's Feyenoord won the 2022-23 Dutch title

Feyenoord unhappy with coach

Arne Slot's potential move to Tottenham Hotspur will become clearer after he has a meeting with Feyenoord tomorrow (Gary Jacob writes).

The Dutch club want to know whether he is committed to them and have offered a new deal beyond 2025 after he led them to the Eredivisie title this season. Feyenoord have been unhappy that Slot has not dampened speculation he could leave, amid Spurs' interest.

Should Slot say he wants to leave, Feyenoord are prepared to seek significant compensation for the final two years of his contract, which could be more than £12 million.

Henry Winter

Football writer of the year



Win or lose in Prague, Moyes deserves to stay



Moyes salutes the crowd after guiding West Ham to the Conference League final — a feat that has displayed his ability to grind out vital results

Sometimes it feels as if there is a snobbery towards David Moyes as a manager when the 60-year-old Scot really should be celebrated. He has taken charge of 1,096 matches, and it takes ability and strength of character to survive as a manager that long.

Managers such as Moyes get well remunerated, and any debate about football has first to acknowledge greater stresses and lesser rewards in other professions, those the country relies on, such as the medical world — but it also needs appreciating that management can be the loneliest of roles, every decision in every game scrutinised. And yet Moyes keeps going, keeps preparing meticulously, keeps being obsessed with football, keeps getting stick and keeps going.

Heart rates and blood pressures jump into dangerous areas during games, according to doctors who have wired managers up. Moyes willingly puts his body through this, week in, week out, season in, season out. The intensity hardly ebbs at the final whistle, dealing with demanding owners, media, players who haven't started, players who haven't finished, players who don't always speak English and players with issues off the field. That's even before taking a glance at the madhouse of social media (most managers sensibly don't, but are made aware if they are trending, which is rarely good news).

Moyes loses his temper at times but, overall, those who deal with him regularly attest to him being fair, being good company with a ready sense of humour; steely too, with a ferocious work ethic. He lives his life in the crosshairs of public and press opinion and still smiles.

If you want a glimpse of the substance of Moyes the man, then consider the events of February 27, 2014, during his brief, disastrous tenure at Manchester United. Moyes awoke to a slew of brutal headlines, after United's defeat away to Olympiacos, supposedly easy Champions League opponents.

United's dressing room was "harbouring increasing doubts about the Scot's suitability for the job", reported The Times, and "the players gave the impression that they had stopped playing for him" in Piraeus. These were not the angry, hot-take headlines the morning after the game, these were a day later, when calls were made, soundings taken and measured verdicts dispensed. Moyes was on the brink.

The former Preston North End manager put on his darkest suit and headed off to the funeral of Sir Tom Finney, the Preston legend. Moyes was photographed, interviewed about Sir Tom and also about Olympiacos, and kept his composure. He was simply determined to pay his respects to the great Sir Tom. Moyes is old school. He was brought up to do the right thing, work hard and never hide.

The inevitable soon occurred, Moyes was dismissed, and the crushing sense of humiliation was worsened by the decision being revealed by media outlets before the club had even told him. That understandably angered Moyes, who felt that United should have acted with more class. He treats people with respect and expects the same in return. It is how he was brought up.

Moyes subsequently admitted that he cried on losing that special, coveted job. He had wanted to show that, after doing such impressive work at Preston, and particularly Everton, he could step up and prove a worthy successor to Sir Alex Ferguson. On his first day at Carrington, Moyes sat in Ferguson's old chair and felt he had truly arrived among the managerial elite. Within ten months, he was out of the chair and out of the door. His sacking was accompanied by inevitably scathing obituaries on his reign, yet a month later Moyes was sitting round a dinner table with a group of us, some of whom were his biggest critics, breaking bread and making jokes. There were no grudges, just a desire to talk football, share views and a glass or two.

That open character and deep knowledge of football is one of many reasons why Moyes is so liked by the press, so popular in managerial circles and so respected by governing bodies such as Uefa that it calls upon his expertise on its technical committee (as it did for Euro 2020).

He is also admired for the way he overcomes setbacks, such as when Everton were denied the chance of progressing to the group stage of the Champions League in 2005-06 by some strange refereeing by Pierluigi Collina in the second leg of their third qualifying round tie away against Villarreal; a Duncan Ferguson header was ruled out for some reason. There was the frustration of not having his contract renewed at West Ham United in his first spell at the club, despite keeping them up in 2018.

Maybe some of this snobbery that pervades the terraces and social media is because of the perception, often exaggerated, of a dour playing style. Moyes is a pragmatic manager, often grinding out results. Ask fans which player they associate with Moyes most and they will probably reply Marouane Fellaini, his player at Everton and United. But just as there was more to Fellaini than awkward beanpole, so there is more to Moyes. Some of West Ham's recent football, involving Declan Rice, Lucas Paquetá, Pablo Fornals and Jarrod Bowen has been a joy to watch.

He deserves proper recognition, particularly now. Moyes could be about to bring West Ham their first trophy since one of their former junior players, David Essex, was in the charts with *Silver Dream Machine*. That was 43 years ago. Moyes could be about to bring those who wear claret and blue their first European trophy since Bob Dylan was in the charts with *Subterranean Homesick Blues*. That was 58 years ago. Moyes is making history at West Ham.

So any suggestions that he should be consigned to the club's history because results earlier in the season were poor, or that West Ham's football is not always pure academy, have to be resisted and dispelled.

Even if West Ham lose to Fiorentina in the Europa Conference League final — in Prague's woefully inadequate Eden Arena (capacity 20,000, each club allocated 4,900 tickets, thousands of ticketless expected to travel) — the board should be looking to back Moyes again this summer and build again for next season.

West Ham's owners are loyal by nature, and have stood by him this season despite dissent from sections of their support. As ever when judging a fanbase's mood, it is worth noting differences between those who go to the games, and those who just show up on social media.

West Ham are likely to lose Rice, their captain and best player, so there is even more of an imperative to maintain some continuity. Moyes offers that. And their form has improved. In March and early April, there was criticism from fans, especially after the 4-0 defeat away to Brighton & Hove Albion and then the 5-1 home loss to Newcastle United. Then West Ham showed their resilience to come from behind to draw with Arsenal, thrashed a reviving Bournemouth at the Vitality Stadium, lost narrowly to Liverpool and Crystal Palace, were beaten by Manchester City, but then overcame Manchester United.

West Ham players are clearly, fully behind Moyes, and he, along with Mark Noble and Rice, has fostered a real camaraderie, highlighted in those lively scenes in the away dressing room at AZ Alkmaar.

On Sunday, when they could have been basking in the glow of qualifying for Prague, West Ham defeated Leeds United, playing some excellent football. Moyes cares about the integrity of the game, which is why his team were so professional against Leeds. Moyes also cares about the future of his club, and it was a nice touch to bring on two homegrown players, Ben Johnson and the 18-year-old Divin Mubama. Whatever happens in Prague, a good man and good manager deserves to be allowed to continue shaping West Ham's future.

Moshiri nears deal for Everton stadium

Paul Joyce

The Everton owner Farhad Moshiri has signed an exclusivity agreement with American company MSP Sports Capital as he seeks investment to complete the funding of the club's new stadium.

Moshiri has been in talks with MSP since January when its Iranian-American chairman Jahm Najafi and CEO Jeff Moorad attended Everton's home game with Southampton. Moshiri, the British-Iranian billionaire, knows MSP personally and they already have stakes in five European clubs: Augsburg, Brondby, Alcorcón, Estoril Praia and SK Beveren. It is understood that any agreement with MSP would be for a percentage of shares rather than amounting to a sale of the club.

Work began on the £500 million stadium at Bramley-Moore Dock in Liverpool in the summer of 2021 and the 52,888-capacity arena will be completed during the 2024-25 season.

Another American investment firm, the Miami-based 777 Partners, had firmed up their interest last week, but Moshiri has always considered MSP to be the front-runner. However, the development is not the first time investors have been granted a period of exclusivity. Last summer Moshiri broke off talks with a group fronted by the former Chelsea and Manchester United CEO Peter Kenyon and the American businessman Maciek Kaminski.

The search for investment comes with Everton facing a final weekend showdown against Bournemouth as they seek to preserve their top-flight status for a 70th consecutive season.

Results

Football

Premier League

Newcastle (0) **0** **Leicester** (0) **0**

Att: 52,152

Report and table, page 58

Tennis

French Open qualifying

Selected first-round results: Men D Added (Fr) bt M Marterer (Ger) 6-4, 6-4; P Martinez (Sp) bt K Coppejans (Bel) 6-3, 6-1; M Gigante (It) bt S C Hong (S Kor) 7-5, 6-4; G Onclin (Ger) bt N D Ionel (Rom) 6-2, 6-3; D Stricker (Switz) bt J Sels (Neth) 7-6 (7-5), 6-3; D Svrcina (Cz) bt L Riedi (Switz) 6-4, 6-4; T A Tirante (Arg) bt R Hijikata (Aus) 6-3, 6-2; F Bagnis (Arg) bt L Darderi (It) 6-3, 6-4; F Marozsan (Hun) bt L Tu (Aus) 6-3, 6-4; Juncheng Shang (China) bt P Cuevas (Ur) 6-3, 6-4; R Olivo (Arg) bt E Gomez (Ec) 6-7 (7-4), 6-3, 6-3; J Rodionov (Aut) bt B Holt (US) 7-6 (7-2), 6-4; G Zeppieri (It) bt N Basilashvili (Geo) 6-4, 6-1; D Novak (Aut) bt S Mochizuki (Japan) 6-2, 4-6, 6-1; J M Cerundolo (Arg) bt Z Svajda (US) 7-6 (7-4), 6-3; **R Penison (GB) bt A Celikbilek (Tur) 6-4, 6-2**; Z Bergs (Bel) bt S Johnson (US) 6-4, 6-4; B Gojo (Cro) bt D Dzumhur (Bosnia) 6-0, 4-6, 6-4; R Albot (Macedonia) bt V Kopriva (Cz) 7-5, 6-0; C Ugo Carabelli (Arg) bt K Uchida (Japan) 6-3, 1-6, 6-0; H Medjedovic (Serbia) bt I Gakhov (Russ) 6-2, 6-7 (7-5), 6-4; N Gombos (Slovakia) bt A Ghibaudo (Fr) 6-7 (7-4), 6-3, 6-1; J De Jong (Neth) bt M Neuchrist (Aut) 4-6, 6-3, 6-1. **Women** M Andreeva (Russ) bt P Kudermetova (Russ) 6-1, 6-4; E Arango (Col) bt H Sakatsume 6-1, 6-3; **V Hruncakova (Slovakia) bt S Kartal (GB) 2-6, 7-5, 6-4**; A Rus (Neth) A Albie (Fr) 6-2, 6-3; N Hibino (Japan) bt N Han (S Kor) 4-6, 6-3, 6-1; S Karatantcheva (Bul) bt F Contreras Gomez (Mex) 3-6, 6-1, 6-3; B Palicova (Cz) bt S Hosogi (Japan) 6-, 6-4; S Walter (Switz) bt C Monnet (Fr) 6-1, 6-3; C Alves (Br) bt E Lys (Ger) 6-2, 3-6, 6-3; G Ruse (Rom) bt J Cristian (Rom) 6-3, 6-4; M Rouvroy (Fr) bt S Kenin (US) 6-4, 6-3; S Vickery (US) bt M Bassols (Sp) 2-6, 7-6 (7-1), 6-0; **F Jones (GB) bt C Vandeweghe (US) 6-3, 6-3**.

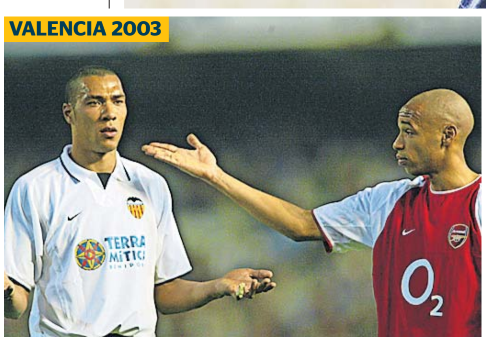
Vinícius case all too familiar in La Liga

Racist abuse of Real forward echoes that of Thierry Henry 20 years ago and shows nothing has changed, says **Ian Hawkey**



JOSE JORDAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES





Vinícius speaks with the Valencia defender Cenk Ozkacar after calling out an individual in the crowd who was racially abusing the Real forward; left, Carew and Henry make their point at the Mestalla after Arsenal players were abused there in 2003

A spring evening in Valencia. It is a high-stakes fixture against a team of national champions. It is noisy in the Mestalla, a stadium of steep grandstands and unique acoustics. Its lower sections of seating are close to the pitch on all four sides.

It's a bad-tempered game. The visiting side's black players are abused by a large number of spectators when they touch the ball, from all around the venue. At a pause in play, one of the away players breaks the fourth wall between actors and audience. He gestures to an area in the grandstand, asking for its attention. He points to Valencia's centre forward, who is black, presenting a clear argument about the racists' illogic.

The arguer is Thierry Henry, then of Arsenal; his ally is John Carew, then of Valencia, a player not being booed with every touch. After the game, a Uefa Champions League match, Arsenal's Patrick Vieira tells reporters: "Uefa are hypocrites. They keep on saying they will do something about this problem but all they are doing is fining clubs £2,000-£3,000. It's all just words. It will never change." A spokesman for Uefa responds by calling Vieira's criticisms "unjustified". The year is 2003.

Two decades and two months on, at the same stadium, time seems frozen. It's a high-stakes fixture between Valencia and Spain's 2021-22 champions. It is interrupted after a visiting player leans over the advertising hoardings behind the goal in front of the Mario Kempes stand. He addresses an individual in the crowd. He is Vinícius Jr, of Real Madrid and Brazil, pointing, shouting: "That one! It was you!" He is identifying one of several who had been calling him "*mono*" — monkey.

Vinícius tells the referee, Ricardo de Burgos Bengoetxea. There is a ten-minute pause while the crowd are told, via the PA system, to "show respect". The next stage in La Liga's protocol would be to take the players off the pitch. Vinícius says to his head coach, Carlo Ancelotti, that he is minded to walk off. Ancelotti thinks that would be "unfair, he's not at fault". Ancelotti then tells the referee he ought to have led all the players off. Vinícius, says Ancelotti, "was insulted from the first minute — a whole stadium have been shouting racist abuse". Vinícius does leave the field before the final whistle, sent off for the first time in his career after VAR noted him raising an arm in a scuffle involving Real and Valencia players during stoppage time.

This is May 2023, and nobody hears Vieira's "it will never change, we've come to expect it" resonate more clearly across 20 years of stagnant attitudes than Vinícius, the most exciting footballer in Spanish football. La Liga's own archive records racist abuse being directed at him alone during, or before, ten matches since October 2021. In January this year, before Real against Atletico Madrid, an inflatable mannequin, dressed in a Vinícius jersey, was hung by its neck from a Madrid bridge beneath a banner reading "Madrid Hates Real".

The next month he was abused at Real Mallorca's Son Moix stadium; one offender was identified, fined €4,000 (£3,480) and banned for a year, though not before attending the next home fixture, where he was captured on camera shouting racist insults at Villarreal's Nigeria winger Samuel Chukwueze. This apparent impunity of offenders was highlighted by Vinícius after he left the Mestalla. "It's not the first time, not the second, not the third," he posted on Instagram. "Racism is normal in La Liga. The league that was Ronaldinho's, Ronaldo's, Cristiano's and Messi's is now the racists'."

The quick response, from Javier Tebas, La Liga president, was to point out the limitations of his organisation in prosecuting racism: La Liga has made legal complaints about all ten of the incidents they recorded involving Vinícius in the past 19 months. Only two convictions have resulted. Investigations have foundered on a lack of concrete evidence. Campaign groups also point to a lack of joined-up strategy to combat racism in football in Spain. Luis Rubiales, the president of the Spanish FA, yesterday criticised Tebas for the Liga chief's "irresponsible" posts on Sunday. Tebas had struck a horribly familiar tone in his exchange with Vinícius. He hectored the player: "Before you criticise La Liga, you should get properly informed," he wrote to the 22-year-old, adding: "Don't let yourself be manipulated."

Here were echoes of what happens time and again when Vinícius is singled out for abuse and calls out the insults. On radio and television talk shows, pundits urge him to stay stoic, exercise some self-control. Some tease the idea that Vinícius invites abuse on himself. Yesterday Vinícius could have read in a Valencia newspaper that he had "again used racism as his shield" while "the truth is the Brazilian was faking [fouls], provoking [opponents] and was aggressive from the opening moments of Valencia-Madrid".

After his red card Vinícius did gesture at the crowd, indicating the threat of relegation that had hung heavily over Valencia before their 1-0 win. He later posted: "The prize for the racists was me getting sent off!"

By then, Valencia said that they had identified one individual in the crowd and were working to single out others. Real have petitioned the Spanish attorney-general's office to investigate the incidents as a hate crime. And a mea culpa was heard from within the sport. "The first thing to recognise is we have a problem with behaviour, with racism," Rubiales told a press conference. "Vinícius is probably far more right in that than we think."

'Racism stains an entire team, fan base and country'

CONTINUED FROM BACK

not let yourself be manipulated." It followed Real's 1-0 loss away to Valencia on Sunday, when the player was the target of sustained racist abuse. Powar said that in many countries Tebas's response would be a resignation issue. He said: "This idea that Vinícius brings it upon himself, which Tebas is reinforcing, is dangerous. In many countries there would be calls for him to resign.

"He [Vinícius] has now been abused ten times at different clubs, ranging from monkey chanting to Atletico fans hanging his effigy from a bridge.

"The situation in Spain regarding racism in football has reached crisis again and it is a reflection of the politics of Spanish football, where the stakeholders do not work together.

"The Spanish FA has taken no action this season and should have. Tebas is a key figure in European football and La Liga is not powerless — this is its competition where the fans are doing the abusing. There is no one in Spain dealing with the issue and no white players outside of Vinícius's teammates who are supporting him. We have gone backwards in Spain."

Luis Rubiales, the president of the Spanish football federation, echoed Powar's thoughts at a press conference in Madrid yesterday. "The first thing to recognise is that we have a problem in our country," he said. "It is a serious problem that also stains an entire team, an entire fan base, an entire country."

He also criticised Tebas's comments, describing them as "irresponsible behaviour", and added: "Probably Vinícius is more right than we think and we all need to do more about racism."

Real had earlier confirmed that the club contacted Spanish prosecutors over the racist chants aimed at Vinícius on Sunday. A statement read: "These events represent a direct attack on the rule of law.

"Real Madrid believes that such attacks also constitute a hate crime and have therefore filed the corresponding report with the prosecutor's office."



Tebas told Vinícius to "inform yourself properly" about what La Liga can do

Newcastle misfire themselves

Henry Winter
Chief Football Writer



Newcastle United	**0**
Leicester City	**0**

For 20 minutes after the final whistle Newcastle United fans sang of going off to Italy, que sera, sera. Other Champions League destinations are available. In front of them at the Gallowgate End, the offspring of the Newcastle players kicked balls into the goal, led by Miguel Almirón's son. Newcastle had the point they wanted to guarantee entry to Europe's elite competition for the first time in 20 years. In a city where they do not need an excuse to party, they partied.

And so, after 289 days of this elongated Premier League season, Newcastle had delivered for their fans. Few expected this back on August 6. They knew that Eddie Howe was rebuilding, but now up the Premier League they go, boarding the Champions League gravy train ahead of schedule. Howe led the players round on the lap of honour, the noise deafening, and off the scale when they stood in front of the adoring Gallowgate. Some Newcastle fans stripped to the waist, black and white stripes painted across their skin, punching the air. They sang the names of the players, and reserved a special tribute for Nick Pope, whose save from Timothy Castagne's volley deep in stoppage time secured the point.

Qualification felt even sweeter because this was a nervy night, complicated by Leicester not so much parking the bus as tipping it over and wedging it in the goal. Castagne's strike was their only effort on target. They were that defensive. Dean Smith started with a back five, with three defensive midfield players and Jamie Vardy and Kelechi Iheanacho hurrying back to help out. Leicester's leading scorers, James Maddison and Harvey Barnes, did not arrive until the second half.

Leicester took a point, but they also took a gamble. Smith denied that the point had tipped the battle against relegation Everton's way. But if Everton defeat Bournemouth at an impassioned Goodison Park on Sunday it does not matter what Smith's side do against West Ham United at the King Power. "That wasn't a gamble," Smith insisted. "If I'd come here and gone at Newcastle we could have got beaten three or four." Because of Leicester's superior goal difference, this point could prove invaluable if, in Smith's words, "they draw and we win, we stay up".

If. Everton's fate is in their hands. "If it's too little, too late, who knows?" Smith added. "We will see." Leeds United, at present 19th, could still survive, but need to defeat Tottenham Hotspur at Elland Road and hope that Leicester do not win and that Everton lose (or draw, and Leeds win by three to tip the goal difference their way).



Maddison crafted a late chance for his side when he crossed for Castagne

What this draw did do is change the mood around Leicester. They are still alive and kicking. Just. Smith, rightly, took pride from the reconnection between his players, so criticised of late, and the 1,700-strong travelling support, who did well to make it north given the problems on the A1. "We showed some defiance," Smith said, and that was important after last week's surrender against Liverpool. Leicester did return south with a couple of injuries: Jonny Evans had only cramp, but Wilfred Ndidi felt his hamstring. Evans was outstanding, helping to form the blue wall against which Newcastle foundered.

Smith was fortunate not to lose one of his midfield sentries, Boubakary Soumaré, to injury when the Frenchman was caught on the knee by the studs of Bruno Guimarães. Andre Marriner, the referee, decided the Brazilian was targeting the ball, but Guimarães was lucky to escape with a booking. "He could have been sent off," Smith said. "It was a dangerous lunge."

At times, until Maddison brought some subtlety after the break, it felt that Leicester had arrived from Welford Road rather than the King Power; twice in the first five minutes Daniel Iversen hoisted Garryowen kicks, and then Youri Tielemans hoofed a ball upfield. Newcastle accepted these gifts gratefully and really should have turned around ahead, especially with the good ground they kept making down the flanks.

Almirón dribbled past Wout Faes and Soumaré. Over on the left, Alexander Isak put in a couple of stepovers to bemuse a dizzy Castagne. Callum Wilson struck a post and was then denied by Ndidi on the line. Almirón hit an upright, and Wilson then headed wastefully wide from another gem of a Kieran Trippier corner. Newcastle's possession touched 84 per cent.

As Newcastle attacked the Gallowgate after the break, Isak's fine first-time strike was pushed over by Iversen. Smith's assistant, John Terry, was at the edge of the Leicester technical area, shouting encouragement to their under-pressure defence. As every second slipped by, Leicester's operation "park the bus" appeared to be vindicated. Maddison came on and was back helping out his defence, even clearing down in the left-back position. Smith changed personnel and formation again, bringing Vardy and Evans off for Barnes and Patson Daka. As Vardy walked slowly off, he turned and signalled to the team to switch to 4-3-3.

Midway through the half Howe removed his leading scorer, Wilson, moved Isak central and unleashed Allan Saint-Maximin down the left, but Leicester stood firm, and again Maddison was back defending, conceding a corner from Elliot Anderson. Trippier curled in another corner that flicked off the curls of Faes and cried out to be headed in from a yard out at the far post by Guimarães. Whether it was the proximity of the woodwork that put Guimarães off or not, he missed spectacularly.

Leicester were defending with their lives, desperate to hold on to a point. Luke Thomas went through the back of Fabian Schär, and glared at the Newcastle fans lambasting him for the foul. Trippier then worked the ball past Thomas to Sean Longstaff, whose shot was saved well by Iversen with his feet.

Leicester seemed content to run down the clock. Iversen held on to the ball as long as he could before releasing. The visiting side continued to defend stoutly. Castagne and Faes worked together well to squeeze the ball away from Isak. With nine minutes remaining, Leicester ventured into Newcastle's half for a couple of seconds. Daka hared after the ball but Trippier intervened, Burn cleared back upfield, and normal service was resumed. Maddison then went on a mazy dribble but his teammates failed to follow him.

Yet Leicester almost stole all the points in stoppage time when Maddison showed the quality of his delivery that has caused him to be linked with Newcastle. Castagne met the cross on the volley, only for Pope to save and show Newcastle the way to Italy.

Newcastle (4-3-3): N Pope 8 — K Trippier 8, F Schar 6, S Botman 7, D Burn 7 — S Longstaff 7, B Guimarães 7, E Anderson 7 (for J Murphy 78min, 5) — M Almirón 7 (A Gordon 88), C Wilson 7 (A Saint-Maximin 68, 5), A Isak 7. **Booked** Guimarães, Isak.
Leicester (5-3-2): D Iversen 8 — T Castagne 7, H Souttar 7, J Evans 6 (P Daka 63, 5), W Faes 6, L Thomas 7 — W Ndidi 5 (N Mendy 89), Y Tielemans 6, B Soumare 6 — K Iheanacho 5 (J Maddison 45, 6), J Vardy 6 (H Barnes 63, 5).
Referee A Marriner.

How they stand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Man City (C)	36	28	4	4	93	31	62	88
Arsenal	37	25	6	6	83	43	40	81
Newcastle	37	19	13	5	67	32	35	70
Man United	36	21	6	9	52	41	11	69
Liverpool	37	19	9	9	71	43	28	66
Brighton	36	18	7	11	70	50	20	61
Aston Villa	37	17	7	13	49	45	4	58
Spurs	37	17	6	14	66	62	4	57
Brentford	37	14	14	9	57	46	11	56
Fulham	37	15	7	15	54	51	3	52
Crystal Palace	37	11	11	15	39	48	-9	44
Chelsea	36	11	10	15	36	42	-6	43
Wolves	37	11	8	18	31	53	-22	41
West Ham	37	11	7	19	41	53	-12	40
Bournemouth	37	11	6	20	37	70	-33	39
Nott'm Forest	37	9	10	18	37	67	-30	37
Everton	37	7	12	18	33	57	-24	33
Leicester	37	8	7	22	49	67	-18	31
Leeds	37	7	10	20	47	74	-27	31
S'hampton (R)	37	6	6	25	32	69	-37	24

Relegation run-in *(all Sunday at 4.30pm)*
Everton v Bournemouth (H)
Leeds v Tottenham (H)
Leicester v West Ham (H)

Peter Walton

Former Premier League referee



Bruno Guimarães's boot was very high in a challenge on Boubakary Soumaré and his studs went straight into Soumaré's thigh. The referee, Andre Marriner, gave a yellow card and VAR did not ask him to take another look.

It was certainly a poor challenge and had it resulted in a red, I would have supported that. The saving grace for Guimarães was that he used very little force in the challenge, and that may be what Mariner and VAR factored in. However, seen overall, Guimarães was a lucky man.





Vardy gets his head to the ball as Leicester hold on, main, but the point was

The fans will count

Martin Hardy



They sang about going to Italy, they sang about the Champions League, and all the while Newcastle United edged their way back towards Europe's top table.

Newcastle's supporters will dream of trips to Madrid and Barcelona. Anything is possible now. They had filled the ground with black and white flags and crests from the 1980s before kick-off, but, in 2023, they are a club moving forward, not looking back.

Qualifying in the first full season under new ownership is a testament to the job done by Eddie Howe and his staff. He was serenaded on the lap of honour. St James' Park was still packed. "Brilliant memories," he said. "It feels amazing, it really does. To share that moment with the supporters at the end there, it was an emotional moment. I'd love to bring some great nights in the competition."

He had previously refused to discuss the Champions League. Now there is no choice: "It's an amazing achievement — where we have come from in such a short space of time."

It is football's promised land and Newcastle are back there. He has led brilliantly, re-engaged a club with their supporters. He had spoken of three different plans to work through in the summer. This is plan A.

"Now we have become a better team there are fewer players who can make us better," Howe said. "We don't have the ability to spend the money people think we have. It will be a small group [of players], but hopefully ones who can make a difference."

August 31 will be a date Newcastle fans will now count down the days to. Then, for the first time since 2002, Newcastle will find out who the other three teams are in their

back among elite

RICHARD LEE/SHUTTERSTOCK; OWEN HUMPHREYS/PA



enough for Newcastle to secure a Champions League spot, delighting Howe and the club's co-owner Amanda Staveley, inset

down the days until August 31

English qualification for Champions League since 1992
Not including qualification for next season's competition

Man Utd	25
Arsenal	20
Chelsea	19
Liverpool	15
Man City	11
Tottenham	6
Newcastle*	3
Leeds	2
Blackburn	1
Leicester	1
Everton*	1

* Includes one qualifying-round exit

Champions League group. At this point it is worth noting those other clubs, who, like Howe's side, have already qualified. Napoli, Bayern Munich, Paris Saint-Germain and Barcelona are already there.

At the end of the summer transfer window, then, the reality of a Champions League campaign will sweep through Tyneside.

Newcastle will play their first Champions League group game in more than two decades on either September 19 or 20. On those dates in 2021, Newcastle were 18th in the Premier League and had given away 10,000 free season tickets because the supporters were so fed up. The takeover, when 80 per cent of the club was bought by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, has proved transformative much more quickly, and with fewer dramatic signings, than some envisaged.

Newcastle have spent about £250 million in three transfer windows, on 11 players, with Alexander Isak the most expensive at £60 million. Last week Howe praised the transfer business that has been done so far. He would like elite players but the club are growing more organically and are restricted by Financial Fair Play rules. The most recent accounts showed the ratio of wages to turnover was 95 per cent, but the Champions League could add £100 million to a turnover that is at present £180 million.

Realistically Newcastle need at least five new players to move the squad to anything like Champions League level. James Maddison, a second-half substitute last night for Leicester City, is a serious target. James Ward-Prowse and Tyler Adams are coveted. Newcastle want two midfielders, plus a centre half, a left back and a forward. They want more signings like Isak, Sven Botman and Bruno Guimarães, youthful players eager to progress. Declan Rice's likely departure from West Ham United is a reminder of where Newcastle are. Rice will command in excess of £300,000 a week. Newcastle's best-paid players, Kieran Trippier and Guimarães, are on half of that.

The Champions League is early, but it does not feel like that on Tyneside. It feels like a long wait is over, and for those inside St James' Park, the third week in September cannot come soon enough.

Brighton players and staff given 20% Europe bonus

Tom Roddy

Brighton & Hove Albion's players and staff will receive a 20 per cent bonus after the club qualified for Europe for the first time in their history.

Roberto De Zerbi's side all but confirmed their place in the Europa League after beating Southampton on Sunday. It is understood that the Brighton owner, Tony Bloom, will reward every member of staff, believed to be about 1,000 people including casual workers, with a one-off bonus of 20 per cent of their annual salary for the historic achievement.

Brighton face Manchester City tomorrow before a season finale away to Aston Villa, who are the only team that, mathematically, could still leapfrog them in the Premier League table — but that would require a seismic swing in goal difference. Even then, Brighton cannot finish lower than seventh, which would earn a Europa Conference League place.

De Zerbi committed to Brighton after the 3-1 win over Southampton, insisting he had no plans to return home to Italy or to join a Premier League rival.

The head coach anticipates possible departures from his squad this summer, with Moisés Caicedo and Alexis Mac Allister among the club's most sought-after players. But the 43-year-old, who replaced Graham Potter in September, has held a meeting with Bloom and the chief executive, Paul Barber, about the need to strengthen the squad in order to cope with four competitions.

De Zerbi warned the club that they will risk being dragged into a relegation battle next season if they fail to add depth to a squad not used to playing in Europe. They have already confirmed the signing of João Pedro from Watford and have identified other players they intend to move for this summer.

Bloom addressed the players in the Amex dressing room on Sunday, saying: "I've been supporting this club for 45 years and I would never have imagined this situation where we're competing against the best teams in the world.

"It means so much to me, our fans, the city, and you put so much into the season. Your attitude, your skill, coming back when we had bad results, which hasn't happened too often, we came back really, really strong the next game and I'm so proud of every one of you."

Brighton have bettered their record-breaking ninth-place finish under Potter in 2021-22, despite selling Marc Cucurella to Chelsea last summer and Leandro Trossard to Arsenal in January.

White in talks with Southgate about making England return

Paul Joyce

Gareth Southgate has reached out to Ben White regarding his England aspirations and is considering calling up Lewis Dunk for the Euro 2024 qualifiers against Malta and North Macedonia.

White, the Arsenal defender, left England's World Cup camp in Qatar during the tournament. It was reported that a row with the assistant manager, Steve Holland, and homesickness were the reasons behind his withdrawal.

The 25-year-old, who has four senior caps, has continued to perform at a high level for Arsenal, operating largely at right back rather than his favoured centre-half role for Mikel Arteta's side.

White was left out of the squad to face Italy and Ukraine in March, but Southgate said then the door was still open for him to resume his international career, and the England manager has since sounded out the defender.

Southgate names his squad tomorrow for the games away to Malta on June 16 and North Macedonia at Old Trafford three days later. Injuries and Manchester City's progress to the Champions League final against Inter Milan on June 10 have complicated Southgate's plans for the games.

Chelsea's Reece James and Mason Mount have missed the end-of-season run-in, while City's England contingent of John Stones, Kyle Walker, Phil Foden, Jack Grealish and Kalvin Phillips are set to join up late, which will affect their availability to start against Malta at the Ta'Qali National Stadium.

Dunk, 31, the Brighton & Hove Albion centre back, could be named in the squad.



White is said to have had a row with Steve Holland

CONTINUED FROM BACK

Trossard. Both players have been a success and may have helped to change Arteta's thinking after previous experienced signings such as Willian and David Luiz, who was brought to the club by Unai Emery, did not work out.

Arteta signed Gabriel Jesus and Oleksandr Zinchenko from City last summer and worked with Gundogan when Arteta was the assistant to Guardiola in Manchester. Gundogan has proven more important to City than either Jesus or Zinchenko, however. He is likely to want at least a two-year deal, which could be a factor in his decision. Arsenal also like Moisés Caicedo, of Brighton & Hove Albion, and Southampton's Roméo Lavia.

Arsenal will need to revamp their midfield for next season. Granit Xhaka is close to joining Bayer Leverkusen and there are questions over Thomas Partey's future after his form tailed off towards the end of this campaign. Xhaka, 30, confirmed there will be an announcement on his future before the final game of the season at home to Wolverhampton Wanderers on Sunday. "I think they [the fans] deserve that [clarity] and I do as well," he said.

The Switzerland midfielder, who joined Arsenal for £30 million from Borussia Mönchengladbach in 2016, has gone from being booed off by the club's fans to being serenaded by them.

He was jeered by Arsenal supporters when he was substituted during a 2-2 draw with Crystal Palace in October 2019 and subsequently stripped of the captaincy. But this season he has been playing some of his best football and the fans have been chanting his name.

"I grew up and I got the respect back, which I think I deserve as well from the fans. How I came back and my turnaround, maybe it's the first in the history of the Premier League."

Additional reporting by Charlotte Duncker

Sport

Cavendish to retire

British cycling legend has one last chance to set Tour de France record

Page 54



LEE SMITH/ACTION IMAGES/REUTERS



Newcastle back in Champions League after 20-year wait

Newcastle United sealed their qualification for next season's Champions League after a goalless draw with Leicester. They last played in the competition in 2003. Match report and analysis, pages 58-59

Jacob Murphy celebrates with Newcastle team-mate Dan Burn after Eddie Howe's side claimed the point they needed to secure Champions League football next season

Arsenal keen on Gundogan

Bayern Munich exploring move for Arteta's top target Rice

Gary Jacob, Constantin Eckner

Arsenal will try to sign Ilkay Gundogan, the midfielder, on a free transfer from Manchester City.

Mikel Arteta, the Arsenal manager, wants to add goals from midfield and Gundogan has scored 36 times and contributed 18 assists in the past three seasons in all competitions. The City captain, who lifted the Premier League trophy on Sunday, will be out of contract at the end of next month but City are expected to offer him a new deal. Barcelona are also interested in him.

Arteta has also earmarked Mason Mount as an option, with the midfielder likely to leave Chelsea this summer. Mount, 24, is best friends with the West Ham United midfielder Declan Rice, Arsenal's key target.

Rice has also been linked with a move to Chelsea, while Bayern Munich have now joined the race to sign the England international. Bayern, who look likely to miss out on the Bundesliga title to Borussia Dortmund for the first time since 2012, are keen to revamp their squad and have sounded out Rice's camp over the prospect of a deal.

Bayern may be willing to invest £100 million during the summer on high-quality players and could sell Sadio Mané, Benjamin Pavard, Joshua Kimmich and Ryan Gravenberch to fund their rebuilding.

At 32, Gundogan would offer Arsenal his experience of playing in the Champions League, something lacking in Arteta's squad, as well as the benefit of having won five Premier League titles at City since becoming Pep Guardiola's first signing as manager in 2016.

Arteta has preferred to sign younger players in recent seasons but he broke that trend when he brought in Jorginho, 31, and Leandro Trossard, 28, in January. He admitted that the club had to "think short term as well as the medium and long term" when he signed

Continued on page 59

Spanish game in racism crisis

Martyn Ziegler Chief Sports Reporter

The head of European football's anti-discrimination body has accused La Liga's president of "reinforcing" the idea that Vinícius Jr is to blame for the racist abuse he receives.

As Spanish football became engulfed in a new racism crisis, Piara Powar, the executive director of the Fare organisation, criticised the response of Javier Tebas to the latest incident of abuse against Vinícius — which has led Real Madrid to lodge a hate crime complaint with national prosecutors — and questioned why the Spanish FA had not clamped down after ten incidents involving the Brazil winger.

Tebas told Vinícius, 22, to "inform yourself properly" about what La Liga can do about racism after the player criticised the league for viewing the abuse as "normal". Tebas added: "Do

Continued on page 57

England sweat over Vunipola

Alex Lowe Rugby Correspondent

Billy Vunipola will need a show of faith from Steve Borthwick if he is to make England's World Cup squad.

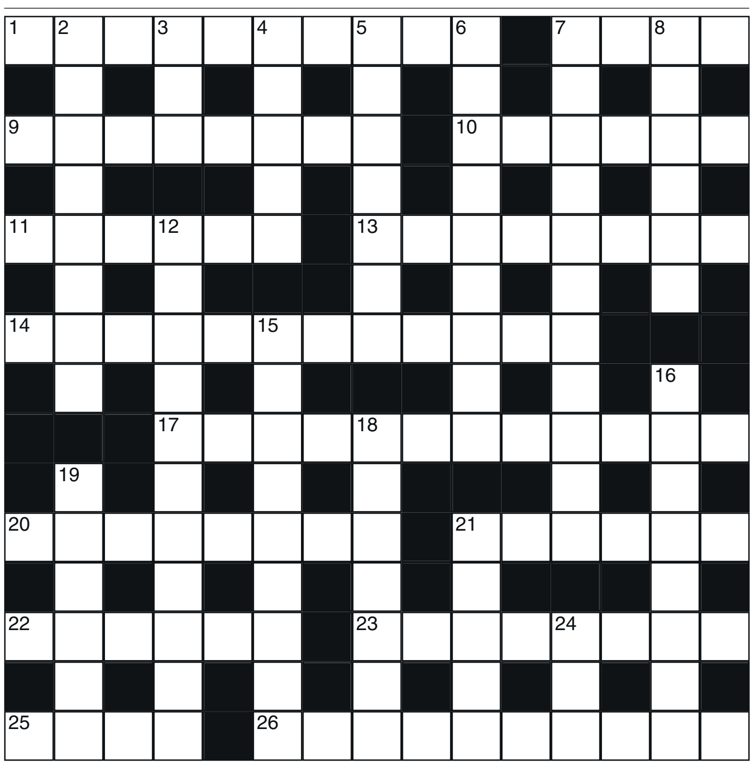
The England head coach is due to finalise his 33-man selection on August 7, two days after the first of four warm-up matches. Vunipola is not expected to be in full training until mid-August after undergoing surgery on the knee injury he sustained against La Rochelle last month.

Borthwick is expected to give Vunipola every chance to prove his fitness because England do not have another No 8 who can match him for power.

Saracens are confident that the 30-year-old, who has 68 caps, will be fit to play in the tournament, which starts for England with a game against Argentina on September 9. "He'll be back running

Continued on page 52

Times Crossword 28,610



ACROSS

1 Digital device cast warmth all over the place (10)
7 Spike's funeral ultimately a very good service (4)
9 Conclusion missing from irritable note (8)
10 A country almost imprisons female — one from another country (6)
11 After reduction, slip on choice piece of clothing (6)
13 How to make a catalogue shorter, being lethargic? (8)
14 A medic very confused with a large rash (5-3-4)
17 Prepares a scam, hiding ace very well (3,2,1,6)
20 Picture of salami on ground (4,4)
21 Noble gas found in cat's airway (6)
22 Welsh city pub hosts charity, perhaps (6)
23 Still going around without a role for social occasion (3,5)
25 Prison disturbance (4)
26 Touch antelope crossing river in remote area (10)

DOWN

2 Monkey nuts are most moreish initially (8)
3 Penned unlimited rubbish (3)
4 American's enthusiastic cry when a husband appears in court (5)
5 Drink with friend? Absolutely! (7)
6 Chief to mark fine covering for loaf? (9)
7 Money English lass finally put in bank, perhaps (5,6)
8 One seen in pursuit vehicle (6)
12 French flag flying across island is a dramatic moment (11)
15 Powerful lady's brief ordeal in frontier region (9)
16 Sea creatures not turning up under part of ship (8)
18 With pole, beat one of 300 in battle? (7)
19 Maybe Lichtenstein works to break up housing operation (3,3)
21 Contract with kindly pensioner at first ignored (5)
24 A couple of pounds for everyone (3)

Yesterday's solution 28,609



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Studley Castle, Warwickshire

WHERE COMFORT MEETS LUXURY

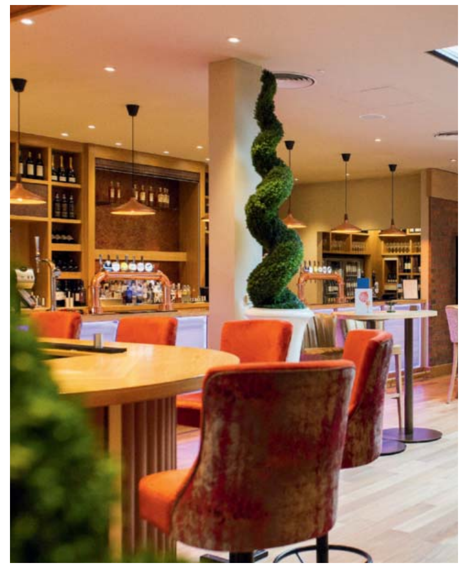


THREE-NIGHTS BREAKS FROM
£289
PER PERSON

- A choice of two unique restaurants serving an extensive breakfast selection and three course dinners
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- Plenty of daytime activities both indoors and outdoors. Explore the grounds on our Pashley bikes or join in archery and rifle shooting
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Alvaston Hall, Cheshire

PIN-DROP PEACEFULNESS



In the midst of the glorious Cheshire countryside, Alvaston Hall is a Grade II listed, half-timbered country house hotel with award-winning gardens and bundles of history. There's croquet and bowls to be played on the lawn, or you can even try your hand at a short round of golf before settling in for dinner and a show.

THREE-NIGHT BREAKS FROM
£249
PER PERSON

- A choice of two unique restaurants, The Cheshire Barn Pub & Kitchen with its traditional country pub feel, plus the Market Kitchen restaurant and cabaret Late Lounge
- Access to The Salon Spa and leisure facilities including a pool with aqua aerobics and a steam room
- Plenty of daytime activities both indoors and outdoors, with everything from quizzes to walking tours and croquet
- A nightly show of live entertainment featuring original production shows, live bands, and music until late

Bodelwyddan Castle, North Wales

ESCAPE TO A CASTLE



A grand and imposing castle near the North Wales coast, surrounded by 260 acres of wide-open green space. Offering 228 rooms there is a choice between the private garden lodges overlooking pretty ponds, an original Victorian folly full of historic detail and stunning views across the Clywdian range, and the main building rooms that are close to the action. With self-guided walks and cycling routes, this is the ultimate destination to explore.

THREE-NIGHT BREAKS FROM
£269
PER PERSON

- A large restaurant serving breakfast and three course dinners championing British classics and global favourites
- Access to The Salon Spa and leisure facilities including a pool, sauna, steam room and gym
- Plenty of daytime activities both indoors and outdoors, with everything from walking tours through woodland wildlife to rifle shooting and pitch & putt
- A nightly show in a dedicated venue featuring original production shows, live bands, and music until late

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Cricket St. Thomas, Somerset

A FAMOUS REGENCY MANSION



THREE-NIGHTS BREAKS FROM
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PER PERSON

- Wide ranging breakfast selection and three course dinners in the elegant and spacious Tree Tops Restaurant
- Access to The Salon Spa and leisure facilities including a pool and gym
- Plenty of daytime activities both indoors and outdoors, with everything from tea tasting or a tour of the grounds, to archery and rifle shooting
- A nightly show in a dedicated venue featuring original production shows, live bands, and music until late in the Late Lounge



The beautiful county of Somerset plays host to this classic country house hotel with grounds designed by the world-famous Capability Brown. Once the backdrop of TV's 'To the Manor Born', the high-ceilinged lounges and tea rooms offer an extra air of elegance while you overlook the serene lake. A Library and a church are just two of the special features you'll find on site.



Bembridge Coast, Isle of Wight

ESCAPE TO AN ISLAND



THREE-NIGHT BREAKS FROM
£229
PER PERSON

- Daily breakfast and three course dinners with panoramic sea views in The Four Tides Restaurant
- Access to The Salon Spa and leisure facilities including a pool, gym and treatment rooms
- Daytime activities including an indoor competition bowls hall, archery and rifle shooting
- A nightly show in a dedicated venue featuring original production shows, live bands, and music until late in the Late Lounge

Situated on a secluded eastern shore, Bembridge Coast boasts beautiful sea views, stunning coastal walks and a friendly atmosphere. Made up of a mix of comfortable hotel rooms and cosy chalet villages, it's a stone's throw from traditional seaside towns and a brilliant botanical garden.

Sinah Warren, Hampshire

A RENOVATED 15TH CENTURY HEALTH FARM



THREE-NIGHT BREAKS FROM
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PER PERSON

- Monumental breakfasts and three course dinners in The Driftwood Restaurant
- Access to The Salon Spa and leisure facilities, including a heated outdoor pool in the Summer
- Daytime activities both indoors and outdoors, including short mat bowls, rifle shooting and shuffleboard
- Nightly entertainment in a large and open venue featuring original production shows, live bands, and music until late

An elegant and modern hotel that overlooks the Langston Harbour on Hayling Island, some rooms boast balconies or patios that take in fresh sea air and gorgeous garden views. Portsmouth Harbour is just a short drive away but, if you prefer walking, the coastline makes for a great path.

Scan the QR code or call now for dates and pricing

WARNER LEISURE HOTELS

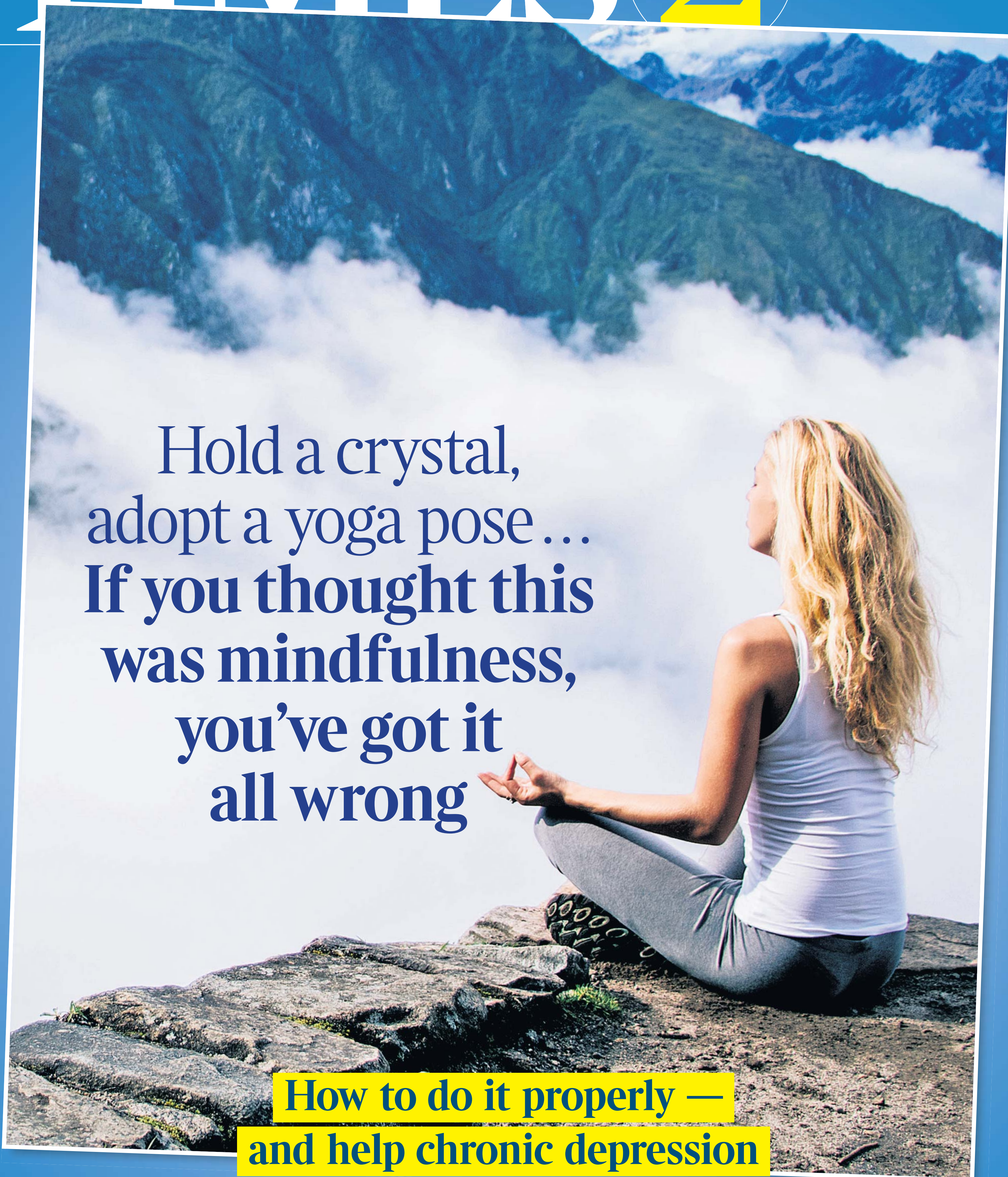
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TIMES2

May 23 | **2023**



Hold a crystal, adopt a yoga pose… **If you thought this was mindfulness, you've got it all wrong**

How to do it properly — and help chronic depression



As shells exploded around us, Martin drawled, 'I've endured critics for years'

Robert Crampton

I met Martin Amis in 2007, when I was 43 and he was about the age I am now. We spent less than 24 hours in each other's company and never saw each other again. But for that brief burst of time, we were good mates. The intimacy came about because our encounter took place in Iraq, in Baghdad and Basra and the skies above, where quite a few people were trying to kill us.



Well, they weren't trying to kill me and Martin, they were trying to kill Tony Blair, who was visiting British troops in the final weeks of his premiership. But if they'd got Blair, they'd probably have got us too, seeing as our brief was to stick close to the PM and write about his trip, me for The Times, Amis for The Guardian.

As the airy-fairy magazine profile boys on a planeload of soldiers and rough-tough news hacks, Martin and I were thrown together. Literally so. As we took off, my helmet slipped, clunking me on the nose then Amis on the chin. "Would you like a Quality Street?" he asked, waving away my apology. Thus did we become besties-for-a-day. We also had cigarettes in common. "I'm gasping for a snout," Martin confided as the Hercules lumbered towards the Iraqi capital. "This is the longest I've been without tobacco since I was 13."

"If we get hit," I pointed out, "you'll be like Aldous Huxley and CS Lewis, dying the same day JFK was assassinated." "Or Mother Teresa the week after Diana," he offered. "I suppose I might merit a paragraph. I'll become one of those strange quirks of history." "Yeah, there'll be a little mention on page seven," I said, rubbing it in. "Novelist Martin Amis among victims." "Lovely metaphor for Blair's premiership, though," he pointed out, "going down in flames in Baghdad."

A Royal Marine officer said that the sandstorm raging below was a mixed blessing. On the one hand, the weather made us harder to shoot down. On the other, landing safely was a lottery. Martin and I exchanged looks. "Relax!" instructed a veteran photographer nearby, "if it happens, it happens." "I don't believe in that relaxing crap," I told him. "Talking of a relaxing crap," Martin said, "I knew I shouldn't have had those figs for breakfast."

Later, Martin picked up a biography of Blair. "What's erm?" he asked me after a while. "What's what?" "Erm," he repeated. "Ah, the ERM," I told him, bending over the page, "that was the Exchange Rate Mechanism." "Ah," he explained, "I've been living in Uruguay." Shortly after that we both fell asleep.

We were woken by the Marine telling us we were almost there and we should sit on our helmets in case of ground-to-air fire. Why would we do that? "Your flak jackets," he pointed out, "no bollock flaps." Amis and I nodded, winced and silently took his advice.

The body armour was hot and cumbersome. The newsmen had already discarded theirs. Martin and I conferred and decided our gear was staying on. Right decision. As the shells started dropping later, shuddering the walls of the huts at the airbase outside Basra where Blair was meeting the brass, Martin stayed remarkably calm. "I've endured London's critics for years," he drawled in that fag-laden baritone, "nothing much fazes me these days."

Back in the Herc, successfully down on the runway at Baghdad, Martin and I positioned ourselves near the loading ramp to make a quick exit in case of trouble. Schoolboy error! As the ramp came slowly down, we saw a plume of smoke rising from the scrub beyond the perimeter wire and realised we were prime targets. "This is all very Hollywood," I muttered, trying to lighten the mood. "Yeah," Martin said, "and I'm the right height for the Tom Cruise role."

As funny in person as he was in prose, that's my memory of Martin Amis.

Suella took a wrong turn

Unlike Suella Braverman, when caught doing 37mph in a 30 zone a few years back, I had no misgivings about attending a speed awareness course with members of the great unwashed rather than take the points and a fine. I'm glad I took that option. Those few hours in a classroom with a dozen or so other offenders were informative. I learnt the unanswerable statistic that someone struck by a car travelling at 35mph is twice as likely to be killed as someone hit by one going at 30mph.

That fact has stayed with me. I quote it to people when they're moaning about being nicked in similar circumstances to my own. They don't always appreciate such po-faced admonition, but they shut up with the whingeing all the same. I also found the video simulation enlightening, the one where you have to identify approaching potential hazards. Bottom line: it's a lot easier when you're going more slowly.

On my course, the instructor went round the room asking everyone why they were speeding. The usual dog-ate-my-homework excuses were trotted out: late for work; no traffic on the road; urgent dash to see ailing mother in hospital; that road ought to be a 50, not a 40, limit, and so forth. The last guy, with perhaps unintended candour, announced belligerently that he genuinely hadn't realised there were speed cameras on that stretch of the A102. He couldn't understand why everyone laughed.

You should have gone, Suella. The British public are incredibly forgiving of human foibles; just ask Boris Johnson. Hypocrisy and special pleading, however, those we cannot abide.

What next for

The presenter's sudden departure from This Morning followed a turbulent few years. Can he rebound, asks Ben Dowell

'I closed my eyes, drew back the curtain," Phillip Schofield once sang. "To see for certain what I thought I knew."

When Schofield took up the role of Joseph for the *Technicolor Dreamcoat* musical more than 30 years ago, I wasn't remotely surprised that a good handful of my peers, most of whom were not Andrew Lloyd Webber aficionados, went to see him. This was Phillip Schofield. The Schofe. The man we had grown up with on Children's BBC along with his puppet mate, Gordon the Gopher, in the Broom Cupboard. This was a man who made us smile, whose impeccable presenting career represented, to anyone with similar ambitions, a dream. And any dream, as the lyricist Tim Rice told us, will do very nicely.

The key to children's telly presenting is often creating the illusion of having a friend — not always human ones, as the case of Gordon or the *Blue Peter* pets demonstrated. Schofield was like a jolly and kindly big brother who made us laugh and feel happy. And his quick ascent up the TV presenting ladder was no surprise, first on the Saturday morning kids' show *Going Live!* and then as one of ITV's platinum presenters. He moved to *This Morning* in 2002, initially alongside Fern Britton, and then he was joined by Holly Willoughby in 2009. Holly and Phil, as they quickly became known, also presented *Dancing on Ice*. Live presenting is a skill only few can master and they did it brilliantly. They were one of ITV's hottest double acts.

For 14 years they were a shiny picture of camaraderie. They holidayed together; he was the older man, she was, in some respects, his apprentice. It worked. And now this. The dream is over and Schofield has apparently gone to stay with his mother in Cornwall after being effectively ousted from his job, his relationship with Willoughby seemingly (if reports are to be believed) beyond repair.

Some say the curtain has come down, but in many ways it has been lifted. Or it certainly was in February 2020, when the happy family man with a wife and two grown-up daughters sat next to Willoughby and talked live on air about the moments when he realised he was gay. It was electrifying television, emotional and tear-stained, and it was, we were told, a sign of their longstanding professional and personal friendship that they did it together.

The story landed pretty well. There was high-profile celebrity support and people seemed to be sympathetic, even if public concern was soon to be taken up with the pandemic. And then, very slowly, the stories became increasingly negative, culminating in one of the strangest of all in September last year. This was when Schofield and Willoughby were accused of queue-jumping when they went to pay their respects to Queen Elizabeth II in Westminster Hall.

With battle lines now drawn between Willoughby and Schofield, and with an army of PRs queueing behind both of them, recollections of what has gone wrong may vary. But the problems are obvious, especially for brand Willoughby, which doesn't tend to attract negative stories.

When I interviewed the pair two years ago, I asked them about rumours of a feud and they replied with perfect, clearly well-rehearsed denials that, privately, I didn't entirely buy. "It's just nonsense," Schofield said. "Doesn't make sense," Willoughby added.

Those stories were perhaps easy to reject, though I did notice that most of the chatter about them being "best mates" came principally from Schofield.

What has been harder to deny is what the viewers thought — it seems that many had begun to see through the carapace, perhaps starting with that bombshell reveal in 2020.

It is perhaps a little-known fact of commercial TV just how much audience research goes into flagship shows like *This Morning*, and how useful that information is for a channel to monitor public feedback. The presenters also receive regular feedback gleaned from this research. According to sources, the fluctuations in popularity of a show like *This Morning* are "surprisingly febrile".

For Schofield, the feedback was said to have been "fairly bad" for a number of months. The story of his brother Timothy — jailed last week for 12 years for 11 sexual offences involving a child between 2016 and 2019 — did not help. At the trial a statement from Phillip was read out in court in which the circumstances of a fraught meeting between the brothers was described in detail. It said he had invited his brother to visit him in London after receiving a call from him in an agitated and upset state and that his brother had confessed to watching pornography with the victim, whom he said was over the age of 16 at the time. Schofield warned him never to do it again: "I said, 'You've got to stop, just never do it again. Regardless of how that happened it must never happen again.'"

Phillip Schofield "has committed no crime but the optics are terrible", a source says.

It was telling how Schofield's departure was dealt with on Monday's show. A warm but rather short (about 30 seconds) tribute from the stand-in hosts Alison Hammond and Dermot O'Leary was all Schofield got after 20 years, and there was certainly no appearance from the man himself. Producers, I am told, were worried that a farewell appearance might backfire.

"Even having him on to say goodbye would have been a bit of a risk," a source says. "Would he have been tempted to go off-piste?"

So why has his popularity ebbed?

Phillip Schofield?

SHUTTERSTOCK



February 2020 did turn the dial, I have been told. Viewers did not turn against Schofield because he was gay, but this story damaged his brand in subtler ways. The public did not entirely swallow Schofield's story of sudden realisation over his sexuality, which even a cursory look at social media confirms. There was also a feeling of concern for bystanders in this saga, not least Schofield's wife and children.

"Graham Norton and the late Paul O'Grady are among the most popular presenters of the modern age, and no decent and reasonable person has a problem with them or any TV presenter being gay," a television insider says. "Schofield's issue is one of authenticity. This wasn't the front he presented to the world. In the long term it has created a problem."

The PR expert Mark Borkowski adds: "Many felt let down by his failure to be more authentic about who he really was, in his private life. So yes, there were questions about who the real

Holly Willoughby and Phillip Schofield, with the bulldogs Holly and Phil, on This Morning in 2019. Below: Schofield in the lead role of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat in 1991



Schofield [is]. That's a task for clever PR, which never was applied."

So what's next? There are rumours of a possible move to Channel 5. ITV, which declined to comment on claims about negative audience feedback, was keen to direct us to its own statement, where its director of programmes, Kevin Lygo, pays tribute to Schofield and makes assurances about his future.

"Phillip is hands down one of the best broadcasters of his generation and we thank him for his two decades' worth of absolutely terrific television on the *This Morning* sofa," Lygo says. "*This Morning* is made by one of the best and most diligent teams in television, who produce over 12 hours of live television each week. We look forward to continuing our relationship with Phillip, starting with *The British Soap Awards* in June and a brand-new peak-time series to come."

Can he reinvent himself? Borkowski thinks it is possible. "He is a rare soul who can helm live TV."

Can the curtain rise on a new act in the Phillip Schofield story?

Broken steps! Weeds! My garden could be at Chelsea

Cleve West's design features urban decay — as Michael Odell's backyard once did

I have never been much of a gardener. Even when inspired by new trends I've often blundered straight outside with secateurs and a sack of bonemeal only to either literally or figuratively step on the rake. Fake grass, decking, block paving — if there's a trend to outrage gardening decency and/or the hedgehog community, I've been there first. I wish this weren't true but years ago I misread the memo about snails and genuinely thought they were good for gardens and actually used to boast about how many I had.

"Look at all my little lovelies, aerating the soil," I'd tell the neighbours until one of them pointed out to me, no, that's worms.

My wife put things right when she moved in ten years ago. The paving, fake grass and my ironic gnome were out. Raised beds and judicious planting of aquilegias, climbing hydrangeas and acer trees were in. Order now reigns and when she says things like "the ceanothus blooms well this year" I know to nod appreciatively at the big blue thing in the corner where I used to keep bits of my old bike.

But now, at this year's Chelsea Flower Show, the six-time gold medal-winning garden designer Cleve West has produced a creation that has made me think: "Not everything I did with the old hoe before my wife came along was bad because look… my ideas are in fashion!"

West has created a garden for the homeless charity Centrepoint. And it's… got a wall from a derelict Victorian townhouse in it, not to mention piles of discarded bricks and broken pipework interspersed with what he calls "so-called weeds". I've had a good look at them. There's nothing so-called about them. They're weeds.

OK, he's calling them dandelions, green alkanet, cleavers, wood avens and daisies, and the colours are beautiful, but they look to me very much like the stuff that used to grow in my garden until my wife came along and said: "I can't live here unless you do something about that pigsty you've got out the back." And why is it suddenly au courant for West to have a dirty Victorian tiled path with a broken set of steps at one end, this entire dilapidated accessway completely blocked by a fallen birch tree? I like to see Mother Nature reclaiming an abandoned urban landscape as much as the next man but this is supposed to be a garden — why bother quizzing the green-fingered old codger in his "Happy to Help" apron at Homebase if the advice now is "just trash it. Nobody cares"? I grew up in Croydon in the 1970s and I genuinely think every junk-strewn, fox-ravaged back garden I saw from the train going into Victoria could have been a contender for Best in Show at Chelsea this year.

No doubt West will be much-garlanded (possibly with stinging nettles or an old carrier bag yanked down from a tree) for this work but I've come round to the idea that flowers lined up neatly in a well-kept bed, bricks stacked up on top of each other to make a wall and trees encouraged to remain vertical are pretty foundational gardening principles. I'd be threatened with divorce if I tried to pull off a look like West's. I see he has an iron drain cover tossed willy-nilly at the end of the garden. Pick it up, man! Somebody could have an accident!



Cleve West's Chelsea Flower Show garden



West says he hopes his landscape will shed light on what it means to be young, homeless and, presumably, exposed to unnecessary trip hazards in Britain today. I'm sorry, but to me it sheds light on what would happen if he, Alan Titchmarsh and Monty Don ate deadly nightshade while messing about in the garden and suddenly no one could remember how to plant so much as a tulip.

Oesophageal cancer, which killed Martin Amis, needs early diagnosis

Dr Mark Porter

I must admit to never having read a Martin Amis novel, but his death last week has prompted me to write about a cancer that deserves a higher profile. Amis had oesophageal cancer, a type of tumour of the gullet that affects 1 in 50 men and 1 in 96 women in the UK at some stage. While smoking (Amis was a heavy smoker) is a significant risk factor, it is only part of the story. Having some types of indigestion and being overweight can cause it too.

The oesophagus runs from the back of the throat to the top of the stomach, and most tumours develop in the lower portion, which is prone to "splash back" (reflux) from gastric juices. Think of the stomach as a washing machine full of car battery acid, protected against its own digestive secretions by a specially adapted lining and sealed off from the tender gullet by a one-way muscular sphincter, or valve. However, this valve is prone to failure, typically in middle age, leading to acidic refluxing back into the lower gullet, causing everything from heartburn to damage that can lead to cancer years later.

The link between oesophageal cancer and being overweight is complex, but increased reflux is a big component. The larger your abdomen, the more likely it is that the valve at the top of your stomach will fail, as many pregnant women discover. And while most of the millions of people in the UK who suffer regular heartburn (me included) will never get cancer, about 1 in 20 develop changes in the lining of their gullets (Barrett's oesophagus — see panel) that will eventually turn cancerous in about 1 in 10 of them.



Other recognised risk factors include alcohol, drinking lots of very hot drinks like tea and coffee and, as with most cancers, getting older (4 out of 10 cases are in people over 75).

Once oesophageal cancer does develop, the outlook is bleak unless it is picked up early. The prognosis varies depending on the exact nature of the tumour and the individual, but as a rough guide little more than half of new cases will still be alive five years later even if the cancer is caught very early. And there is no five-year survival data for late presentations (stage 4) because no one survives that long.

Very early cancers may respond to localised treatment (photodynamic light therapy), but options for the majority include surgical removal of the affected segment (1 in 5 of people will be suitable for this) and/or chemotherapy (1 in 3) and radiotherapy (1 in 2). Prevention remains the best defence. Cancer Research UK estimates that 6 out of 10 cases could be prevented if people didn't smoke, maintained a healthy weight and drank sensibly, but early diagnosis is the next best defence.

We all get indigestion/heartburn from time to time and lots of people are on regular medication (like omeprazole) to treat reflux, so how do we know when it's a sign of more sinister problems? It is difficult, but if you have new-onset symptoms that don't respond to over-the-counter remedies within a few weeks you should seek medical advice. Don't be that person who constantly munches Gaviscon and Rennies to get them through the day.

> **It's a significant risk factor, but smoking is only part of the story**

If you are already on prescription medicines for reflux, report any new changes in your symptoms. It is OK to increase the dose for a few weeks if the heartburn worsens, but if you need very high doses to keep it at bay ask yourself, and your doctor, what has changed. You may be offered a gastroscopy (camera down the throat) to check the lining of the gullet and test for Barrett's (see panel). However, the real alarm symptom for cancer of the oesophagus is difficulty swallowing (dysphagia), often first noticed as foods such as bread taking a while to go down or even getting stuck. There are more innocent causes but this should prompt an urgent referral to a specialist under the NHS two-week suspected cancer pathway.

Ten years ago my reflux started to get worse despite daily medication and I ended up having an endoscopy to check all was OK. Suffice to say it was an interesting experience, which you can share by listening to this episode of *Inside Health* on Radio 4 at bbc.in/3pW45uF. Please don't listen while eating, and keep the volume down.

Barrett's oesophagus and the risk of cancer

- **About 1-2 per cent of the UK adult population are thought to have Barrett's oesophagus — reflux-induced changes that may make the delicate lining of the gullet more resilient to acid, but which can predispose to cancer years later. It is named after the chest surgeon Norman Barrett, who worked at St Thomas' Hospital, London.**

- **The risk varies depending on which study you believe, but somewhere between 3 per cent and 13 per cent of people with Barrett's will go on to develop cancer.**

- **Once it is diagnosed, most people with Barrett's will be offered regular gastroscopy to look for worrying changes (early signs of trouble can be treated with light therapy).**

- **Gastroscopy is the gold standard for detecting Barrett's, but waiting times are very long. Quicker, less invasive testing is being evaluated where people swallow a capsule on a string. Once in the stomach the capsule dissolves, releasing an expanding sponge that is then pulled back through the gullet to sample the lining.**

What we got

An Oxford clinical professor and a meditation expert tell Anna Maxted how to do it right

The Instagram version of mindfulness has us fooled. We think it's all yoga poses on white beaches. In fact it is clinically proved to be effective in treating severe depression, yet its reputation remains on a par with crystal healing.

Mindfulness is so misunderstood that even when Mark Williams, emeritus professor of clinical psychology at the University of Oxford, lectures on it to enlightened audiences, he always clarifies. All those illustrations of people on top of mountains, looking blissed out, he says mildly, "give the impression that this is mostly about clearing your mind. And it's not."

I'm sitting in a quiet room in an Oxford college with Williams, who co-developed mindfulness-based cognitive therapy (MBCT) for prevention of relapse in depression, and Dr Danny Penman, a meditation teacher and author. We're here to discuss their latest book, *Deeper Mindfulness: The New Way to Rediscover Calm in a Chaotic World.* (Their first, *Mindfulness: Finding Peace in a Frantic World*, was a million-copy bestseller.)

Who better to clear up any confusion? Mindfulness is about clear-sighted awareness, says Penman, 56. "It's essentially paying full conscious attention to whatever is going on around you and inside you." So noticing your thoughts, feelings, emotions, as well as what you can see, hear, smell and feel. He adds: "It's a state of mind that is cultivated by paying attention. And we very rarely do that." Usually, we're swept along by our thoughts.

Williams, 70, likens mindfulness to sitting on a riverbank watching your thoughts and feelings flow past, and choosing which you want to engage with and which you don't. You're seeing the patterns of the mind. This brings calm, but also insight. Another tenet of mindfulness is being kind to yourself and others. (Williams, who lives just outside Oxford, texts in advance to ask my sandwich preference, and Penman — coming from Bristol — emails to warn of train delays.)

Penman in particular is a convincing advert for the power of mindfulness to help manage chronic pain. Though I confess I'm sceptical, and almost annoy Williams by joking about its ability to lessen the agony of childbirth. Penman says with a laugh: "I know it sounds so glib!"

But mindfulness worked for him when, in 2006, he had a paragliding accident, smashing into a Cotswolds hillside from 30ft up. "The lower half of my right leg was driven through the knee into my thigh." As the pain hit — "the most astonishing pain you could imagine" — he used a simple meditation learnt at school to gain control of his breathing.

During his month in hospital, he practised visualisation meditations — "I needed a positive view of where I was going to be in a year, two years …" His recovery was estimated at 24 months, but he was better in five and a half. "As soon as you relieve the stress and anxiety, which is what those meditations did, your whole body's healing process is allowed to do its work," he says. What it did for him led him to contact Williams.

Turns out mindfulness can alleviate pain because of how the brain works. "If you're in chronic pain, your mind knows what to expect from the pain," Penman says. "So it doesn't actually have to pay attention to the incoming data from the injury. It just essentially recreates the pain in your mind." The actual pain varies moment to moment, "but because the brain is running a simulation, you only ever experience the peak pain". When you start to pay attention to it, "you notice the peaks and the troughs. It makes it easier to live with." He adds: "The pain you experience is absolutely real. I don't want to downplay that."

Plus, as Williams notes, most people don't experience pain as purely "intense sensations from the body". Rather it's an amalgam of intense sensations, plus "thoughts about it like 'I can't stand it, how long is this going to go on?' and feelings of frustration, helplessness". It becomes "a glob". But if you use mindfulness to step back — "oh, that's a thought, that's an emotion, that's the intense sensation" — you dismantle the glob, so the pain becomes more workable.

Prior to his work in mindfulness, Williams' research focus was depression and the suicidal mind, and, he says, it's partly because mindfulness teaches you to gain distance from your thoughts — to see them as "mental events passing in the mind" — that it's so potent against depression, which involves getting tangled in a lot of negative thinking from which it's hard to escape. "Realising you don't have to follow the thoughts, you don't have to get tangled up in them, can be very powerful," he says.

Even so, it seems astonishing that a mindfulness-based course can conquer the monster that is depression — until he explains. "We found in our early research at the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit in Cambridge that people when they are suicidal can't see their way to solve problems."

Much of that difficulty comes from "an over-general memory" — an inability to be specific about their past. If asked to think of an event when we were happy, most of us could recall a specific day. Depressed or suicidal people tend to say, "Oh, times when I've been with friends." If you're suicidal, this worsens your despair.

Why? Because if, say, your relationship has ended and all you can think is "'when I was with Bill, it was all right' and Bill's left you — that's it. There's nothing you can do," Williams says. Whereas a specific memory,

wrong about mindfulness

COVER AND BELOW: GETTY IMAGES



"'I remember going with Bill to the cinema, then we met friends, had a coffee', has given you Bill, who's left you, but it's also given you the coffee, the friends, the cinema. So you're more likely to be able to navigate your future."

When depressed or suicidal people felt despairing, if they were trained in mindfulness techniques, Williams says, "They could stand back from their thoughts and say, 'Ah, now I see what's happening.' " Mindfulness was able to uncouple the sad mood from suicidal ideas. "So people might still feel sad, sometimes they might still feel suicidal, but — rather like the pain example — it doesn't all then get enmeshed and start escalating."

Even if we are well, mindfulness can be invaluable because it enables us to gain perspective, Penman says. "It gives you a little bit of extra space to make better decisions." Nowadays we tend to overburden ourselves, Williams adds, and everything can accumulate until we're in a "driven state" (distracted, judgmental, emotional, off balance, reactive, avoidant, joyless) — and then not tasting our food, ignoring our kids.

There's good reason for this. The mind, as Williams explains, is clever at "devaluing distractions" to help us to focus. This, brilliantly, is why procrastination always makes a job less appealing. Even a neutral task like returning a library book will acquire an unpleasant tinge if you put it off. Mindfulness helps you get back into "being mode" — or at least prompts you to ask (as your children knock on your study door but fail to recognise you), "is this what I'd intended to be doing right now?"

Deeper Mindfulness contains an eight-week programme that includes meditations clinically proved to be highly effective at treating anxiety, stress, depression, exhaustion and enhancing quality of life. But even if you weren't to do a single meditation, the science of how the mind works is instructive (OK, it's an arse-kicker).

I've stopped multi-tasking because I don't want "a shallower mind". And anyone keen to preserve their ability to focus should develop a "spotlight of attention" they train on one thing at a time. Constantly switching from this to that erodes your attention span and — because of the effort needed to "inhibit" the mind's focus on the task just left — is mentally draining.

To demonstrate, Williams and Penman suggest timing how long it takes you to count to 11, then recite "Mary had a little lamb". Then try interweaving both: "One — Mary — two — had — three — a" etc. Thanks to the "switching cost", it takes longer.

The book also introduces the "deeper" mindfulness concept of "feeling tone", or vedana. Penman explains it poetically. "At the moment that the unconscious mind crystallises into the conscious mind, there's this very, very small space where your mind categorises everything as either pleasant, unpleasant or neutral."

So. A baby smiles at you. Pleasant. You see litter. Unpleasant. "There's nothing we can do about that initial sense of 'pleasant' or 'unpleasant'," Williams adds. But, Penman says, that primal sense is a tipping point. "If it tips one way, it tends to trigger negative thoughts, feelings, emotions, sensations; if it tips the other, they will be more positive."

Usually we're unaware of this "feeling tone" as a trigger, and of the way we react to it. We find ourselves pushing away unpleasant thoughts and it creates mental turbulence. Or a pleasant feeling dissipates and we feel flat. Williams says, "You get pushed and pulled around by this sense of 'pleasant' or 'unpleasant'" without understanding why.

But if you become aware of that moment where a "feeling tone" is created, you can alter your response. I try it. Hours after I realise I need to replace my car (boring, expensive), my 16-year old tells me something tedious about school and I snap. It dawns that the car issue is sloshing around in my head — unpleasant.

So I mindfully name the car-prompted feeling tone souring my mood — "unpleasant". Then I say, "It's OK not to like it." Doing this cuts out a lot of mental complexity, Williams says, "because when we've had a distressing memory or experience and we're ruminating about it, we get drawn into solving the problem or rehashing it in our minds".

Mindfulness isn't about accepting the unacceptable, and you still might need to rationally process a problem, he adds. Though if not, or if it can wait, simply saying "no action needed right now" can be freeing. Words to invoke when your thoughts start spinning at 3am. It feels as if mindfulness is a superpower available to all of us.

> You don't have to follow your thoughts, you don't have to get tangled up in them

***Deeper Mindfulness* by Professor Mark Williams and Dr Danny Penman (Little, Brown £14.99). To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk. Free UK standard P&P on orders over £25. Special discount available for Times+ members**

The easy way to meditate

The six-second stress reliever: soles of the feet meditation

- Stand with your feet shoulder-width apart and slowly and gently draw in a long, slow breath.
- Breathe out slowly, naturally and, as you do so, drop your attention to the soles of the feet.
- Pay attention to the different sensations as they rise and fall like waves on the sea. You may notice a feeling of pressure under the heels and the balls of the toes, maybe a generalised achiness or tingling all over your feet or, perhaps, patches of warmth, coldness or maybe a sense of moistness between the toes. You may not experience anything at all, so try not to prejudge what you will find.

You can do this exercise over one breath (about six seconds) — but more will be better.

Ten-finger gratitude exercise

This is a short daily practice to help you tune in to and appreciate the "small" pleasant moments of your life.

1 Take time to settle and ground yourself, sitting or lying down. At a certain point allow your attention to settle on your breath, and then, when you're ready, expand your attention to the body as a whole, sitting or lying.

2 Allow yourself to look back over the past 24 hours, or over the period since you last practised in this way, and bring to mind ten things you are grateful for. Count them on your fingers, bringing into awareness the ordinary things in the day.

3 See if you can carry on until you've got to ten, even when it gets harder after four or five. At this point intentionally bring into awareness the tiny, often unnoticed, ordinary things of the day — like the water in a tap, the washing, the drying, the first mouthful of a meal, the first sip of a hot drink, the smile of a passer-by, a breeze moving the trees or the colour of a wall. There may be other things too — big or small — all waiting to be noticed.

4 Then, when you are ready, come back to the breath, perhaps completing the ten-finger exercise by appreciating the life-giving nourishment of each breath — this breath, and this breath, following one after the other.

Everyday mindfulness practice: appreciation

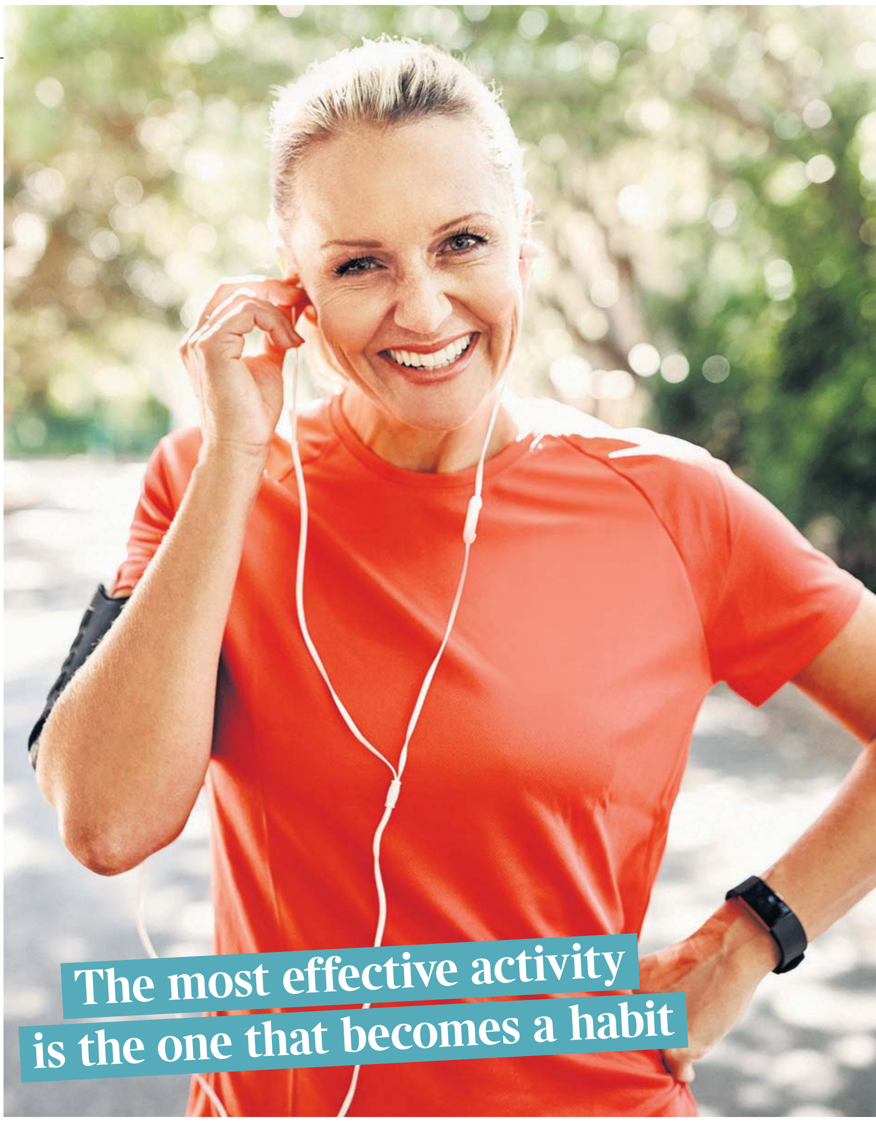
Each day look out for any small moment when you notice something pleasant. It doesn't have to be anything big or important. But when you notice it, see if you can take a pause, inwardly, for a moment. Notice in that very moment: what body sensations are here? Tune in to the body as it stands or sits or moves, allowing it to be as it is, perhaps saying inwardly, "It's OK to like this."

health

The rise of the super-fit fifties (and how to be one of them)

The number of middle-aged exercisers has increased by more than a million in six years. The experts tell Peta Bee how to tailor your regimen as you get older

GETTY IMAGES



Two decades ago, the collective fitness levels of those over 50 might best be described as woeful. Fast-forward to 2023, however, and the trend has reversed in spectacular fashion.

The annual Sport England Active Lives survey, which questioned more than 177,000 people aged 16+ about their exercise habits, reveals how far the over-50s have progressed. From the data, Sport England estimates, there are almost half a million fewer active 16 to 34-year-olds than there were six years ago, but there are, it reckons, 1.3 million more active 55 to 74-year-olds and just over half a million more active people aged 75+.

"Age groups over 55 are not just back to where they were before the pandemic, but have forged ahead of that in terms of activity levels," says Nick Pontefract, chief strategy officer for Sport England and co-author of the new report. "Their longer-term activity gains have also been bigger than for younger people."

> "The human body responds to more activity in a positive way at any age

It is progress that has overturned the fitness landscape. "We have spent a lot of the past 8-10 years focusing really intently on getting middle-aged and older people to be more active," Pontefract says. "Now we are more worried about the long-term slow decline in young people's participation in sport and exercise."

Aesthetics may be a big motivating factor for the young, but once you're in your fifties the desire to stay in shape is driven by the knowledge of what might happen if you don't.

"There is definitely more awareness of the importance of staying fit among middle-aged people than there has ever been," says Afroditi Stathi, professor of physical activity and community health who is co-director of the network for healthy ageing at the University of Birmingham. "Because we have engineered activity out of our everyday lives compared to 30 or 40 years ago, there is this recognised need to reintroduce it wherever we can. It is particularly key for the over-50s, who face extended working lives and who know that a healthy and functional body is a necessity and not a lifestyle luxury."

Cardio-respiratory fitness, muscle and metabolic health, balance and flexibility all deteriorate with age. "Being fitter as you get older doesn't prevent these systems from declining," says Leigh Breen, exercise and health theme lead and professor of translational muscle physiology at the University of Birmingham. "But better fitness gives you a higher starting point so that the rate of deterioration is slowed." An investment in physical activity is one that holds back the years and buys time — the commodity that over-50s prioritise over any other.

Perceptions of how we should work out at 50 have also changed.

Previously, the marker for super-fitness in middle age was completing a marathon or triathlon, but Pontefract says there has been a "demographic, social and economic shift" that has changed the goals. "It is easier and more acceptable to be active in so many different ways compared to a few decades ago," he says. "The availability and range of options, and the greater understanding that exercise doesn't have to be extreme, makes it much more attainable to more people." Super-fit people in their fifties are as likely to be signing up for Barry's Bootcamp as they are a Parkrun and that, Stathi says, is what sets them apart. "Our own research shows that you can increase

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Carry on running (even if it's at a lower intensity)

fitness and mobility even in our sixties, seventies, eighties and nineties, and the key is to integrate activities that are compatible with your lifestyle and that you enjoy — it should never be a burden," she says. "The beauty of the human body is that it responds to more activity in a positive way at any age."

> You may need to shake up your regular routine to ward off age-related decline

How to be super-fit at 50+

Yes, you can carry on running and playing football

Breen says there is no reason to taper your preferred sport or exercise unless you are encountering persistent niggles and injuries because of it. "Keep up those habits if you can. There is no real evidence to suggest that keeping up high levels of exercise is harmful as we age." This does not mean you should take things to extremes. "There's a tipping point, and if you do high-intensity, long-duration exercise every day, you might not get the same health and fitness returns," he says. And there is no point powering ahead if you keep breaking down.

Stathi says you should take into account your current fitness levels and reduce the intensity of your chosen activity if you need to. "Walking, football and netball are great examples of lower-intensity options of sports," she says. "They offer all the physical benefits but with reduced risk of injury."

Do some squats every day

"If I was to choose a single exercise that is essential for middle age onwards, it is the squat," Breen says. "Muscles of the lower legs have been shown to waste away a little bit quicker with ageing than other muscles of the body, so improving the strength of them with daily squats is hugely important."

Start by standing up from a chair — no hands — and sitting back down repetitively for 60 seconds if you suspect you are not up to the challenge of full, deeper squats. Repeat two to three times. When you are ready, progress to using weights. "The ability to rise from a seated position is an important measure of health as we age," Breen says. "The longer we can continue with squats to preserve lower body muscle strength, the better."

Strength-train twice a week

Government recommendations are that all adults do some strength and resistance training at least twice a week — and Breen says that's the bare minimum. "Adding exercise that targets the major muscles including those in the upper body, the lower limbs and the back is particularly important as we get older, when muscle mass starts to decline," Breen says. "But this doesn't just mean lifting heavy plates at the gym; the list of activities that constitutes strength training is huge and varied." Much depends on your current level of conditioning. "If you haven't done much strength training in the past, then gardening, lifting and carrying heavy objects or using resistance bands is sufficient to get started," he says. "Otherwise, lifting weights is important."

Do these three weights exercises at the gym

Research about to be published by Peter Herbert, associate professor of the Centre for Health and Ageing at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David in Carmarthen, suggests that three machine-based exercises at the gym are sufficient to work the muscles of the body that are key for retaining the ability to perform functional movements such as sitting, standing, balancing and squatting, and which tend to deteriorate as we get older. The exercises are the lateral pull-down, the bench chest press and the leg press. These three "multi-joint" exercises, Herbert says, were "more effective than a traditional gym routine of seven or eight popular exercises such as the biceps curl. You do not need to spend hours each week doing strength training — two or three sessions doing these three at the gym will cover all requirements."

Change the ratio of your workouts

It's easy to get stuck in a rut doing something you have always done. But, to get fitter, your regimen needs an element of progression and variety, and you may need to shake up your regular routine to ward off age-related decline. "From 50, you need to think more carefully about the ratio of your activity," Breen says. "If you are doing mostly aerobic exercise such as running, swimming or cycling in a given week, but you don't do any resistance training, then tailoring back some of those cardio activities and adding more strength work from your fifties onwards is a good idea."



The most essential exercise: squats

Scale up gradually

Launching into any new exercise programme with too much intensity is not a good idea. "There is an adaptive phase that all of us undergo when we increase the intensity, duration or frequency of exercise," Breen says. "Our entire physiological systems and not just our muscles take time to adapt and you can't rush the process."

Go too hard too soon and you risk injury — more so when you are over 50, and it takes longer to recover from these aches and pains the older you get. You must be patient. "As you get older, it becomes more difficult to see the same level of results," Breen says. "When you are in your twenties and thirties, you feel and look stronger and fitter after a few HIIT sessions on a bike or lifting weights at the gym, but some of the body's systems are more sluggish to adapt to exercise as we get older."

In other words, results won't happen overnight. "Consistency is much more important in your fifties and sixties," Breen says. "You will get good results but it will take longer, so focus on where you will be in three to four months' time rather than next week."

Add a once-weekly HIIT session on the bike

Age takes its toll on the body in many ways, with declining muscle mass just one of the things we need to worry about. "If you don't exercise regularly enough, there is an average 16 per cent decrease in aerobic capacity by the time you get to your fifties, and a 26 per cent drop in your seventies and eighties," Herbert says. "This is associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease and a huge decrease in health and quality of life."

One of his published trials involving people aged 59-78 found that some of these effects can be reversed by performing six 30-second sprints on an indoor bike, interspersed with three minutes of very gentle cycling recovery between each burst, every five to ten days.

"If even previously sedentary people did this in addition to other moderate exercise such as walking, jogging or light cycling, they effectively prevented this age-related decline from happening," Herbert says. "But if all you can do is add some intensity — enough to leave you breathless and sweaty — to a run or cycle outdoors every week, that is better than nothing."

Add prehab work to your routine

Balance and flexibility also decline with age, even if you maintain other aspects of fitness, so prehabilitation is a buzzword of older exercisers.

"In addition to your basic aerobic and strength quota each week, the guidance is to fit balance and flexibility in and around your lifestyle," Breen says. You can address both in yoga, Pilates and t'ai chi, or you can DIY at home with stretching apps and by standing on one leg as you brush your teeth. "The activity that is most effective is the one that becomes a habit," Stathi says. "You don't need a gym for most things."

Three ways to get lower back relief

1 Try a DIY back massage
Lower back muscles that are tired and tense can be a precursor to back pain. "A lot of people experience tightness or a dull ache in their backs even after gym work or running," says Lexie Williamson, a yoga instructor and the author of *Yoga for Runners*. "You can release that low back fatigue with simple movements at the end of the day." She suggests this DIY massage. Lie on your back and pull your legs in towards your stomach, holding just below the knees with both hands. Keep your head on the floor, using a cushion if it feels uncomfortable. "From there, rock from side to side," Williamson says. For a lower back massage, keep knees together but move the legs away from the abdomen so that arms are straightened. "Work in circles, rolling and moving to massage the back muscles for 60 seconds. To massage higher up on your mid-back, hug the legs tighter and raise your head a bit."



2 Do the back scoop
"For most people, muscle aches and pains in the lower back are a result of inactivity," says James Davies, an osteopath and the author of *Body*. "Repercussions can occur down the line when tightness in the lower back impacts on other joints and muscles." The back scoop is an option to do daily, he says. Stand upright with feet shoulder-width apart and dip into a slight squat with knees bent a little. Hold arms above the head. "Tilt the pelvis backwards as far as you can and then bring your arms down to shoulder height in a scooped shape," he says (imagine you were swimming front crawl but with both hands in unison). "Keep your head looking down to the floor between your hands and hold the position to feel the stretch in your lower back for as long as is comfortable."

3 Raise your legs
Taking the weight off your feet can bring instant relief. Davies suggests lying in front of a chair, shuffling your bottom towards it and placing your calves on the seat. "Bend your knees to 90 degrees and place your arms at your sides," he says. "Take deep breaths and relax as you feel your lower back muscles release." Alternatively, place straight legs against a wall so that heels rest on the surface. "You can also invert your legs using a strap or osteopath band looped around the feet," Williamson says. "Hold one end of the strap in each hand and 'walk' your hands up the strap until arms are straight."

Peta Bee

arts

Scapa Flow Museum Orkney

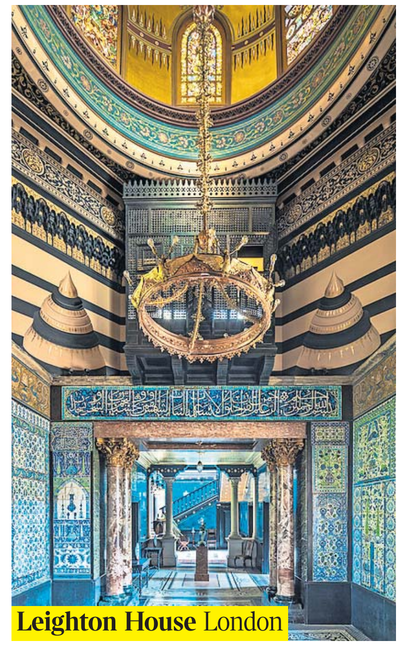
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The MAC Belfast



Leighton House London



Natural History Museum London



Who will win Museum of the Year?

Small places, as well as big city institutions, are on the shortlist and in these cash-strapped times they all share the desire to be useful, says Richard Morrison

Feast or famine? Reasons to cheer or worry? It's hard to decide as the Art Fund publishes the shortlist for its Museum of the Year award — the world's largest museum prize. Of the five shortlisted museums, three reopened during 2022 after renovations or expansions into which millions of pounds were poured, along with tons of energy, expertise and often radical rethinks.

Certainly cause for rejoicing there. Museums are no longer primarily repositories of dusty Saxon spoons, dodgily acquired colonial souvenirs and suchlike. What's evident from the shortlist is that the best of them want to reflect the concerns of the modern world, and particularly of the communities in which they sit.

It could be the mighty Natural History Museum attracting 1.2 million visitors to its powerfully prophetic *Our Broken Planet* exhibition, or growing a database of 4.9 million observations to track changes caused by human activity in the natural world. Or it could be the little Scapa Flow Museum on Orkney, collating an entire social history of how the two world wars affected those northerly isles, vastly inflating their tiny populations with military personnel and thus giving thousands of present-day visitors a direct family link to the place.

Either way, a wind of change is clearly evident. Museums want to be relevant. To be useful. To matter.

Set against that, however, are the grim financial circumstances in which the museum sector has to operate. Raising funds for high-profile restoration projects is hard enough, but the real challenge is the mundane but vital matter of keeping galleries open, hours uncut and staffing levels adequate when local-authority funders are being stretched as never before.

There's something paradoxical, for instance, about the situation of the Burrell Collection in Glasgow, another of this year's shortlisted museums. Just over a year ago this fabulously eclectic treasure trove — containing everything from Roman mosaics and Islamic weaving to modernist paintings — reopened after a five-year £69 million restoration and reordering. The critics were generally approving and half a million people visited in the 14 months since. In that sense it's a success story.

Yet the Burrell is part of Glasgow Life, a charity running Glasgow's museums, libraries and arts venues on behalf of the city council. And that organisation seems to be staggering from one crisis to another. Having lost £38 million during the pandemic it is now shedding 40 per cent of its conservation staff to save £1.5 million a year. For places like the Burrell this will mean, at the least, fewer exhibitions. The excitement surrounding its reopening has quickly subsided.

In Belfast it's a similar story. Nobody doubts that the MAC (or Metropolitan Arts Centre, as it's never called) deserves its place on the shortlist. Founded in 2012, it combines the role of a traditional exhibiting gallery — housing big international touring shows including, in recent years, Ron Mueck and Gilbert and George — with that of a creative hub for Belfast's artists, an education centre and what its creative director, Hugh Mulholland, describes as a "civic space" in which, particularly, problems affecting Belfast's most disadvantaged communities can be aired.

"There are lots of issues in Northern Ireland that have not been addressed," he says. "One in five adults here have a mental illness. The lack of social housing is chronic. So we give space to partners working with the most vulnerable and marginalised people."



The Burrell Collection Glasgow

It's a vital place, then, deserving of the highest level of government support. Unfortunately, that's precisely what isn't forthcoming in a Stormont-suspended Northern Ireland where arts funding has slumped to frankly shocking lows. Arts funding in Northern Ireland works out at a paltry £5.44 per head. The comparable figure for England is £7 and Wales £10.35, but the real eye-opener is the equivalent figure in the Republic of Ireland: more than £22, or four times the level of subsidy north of the border. And that disparity is set to get even more pronounced, because the Arts Council of Northern Ireland has just warned its client organisations to brace themselves for yet more cuts.

In those circumstances you might expect a brain drain of Northern Ireland's artists to the republic. That's not happening, Mulholland says, because of two things. First, the cost of living in Dublin is so much greater that it cancels out the prospect of better subsidies; and second, there's a uniquely irrepressible spirit and wit about the creative sector in Northern Ireland. "The remarkable thing is that, even within this challenging funding context, amazing work is still being done at the MAC," he says. "It's just that lack of funding impedes our scope and ambition."

All five shortlisted museums are guaranteed £15,000 from the Art Fund, but for the winner (selected by an expert jury chaired by Jenny Waldman, the Art Fund director) there's a handsome payout of £120,000 when the result is announced at the British Museum on July 12. Which will win? Romantics, perhaps, will be hoping that one of the two small museums on the list — Scapa Flow and Leighton House in London — get the judges' nod. Both have been superbly enlarged in recent years. In Orkney wartime buildings never built to last have been climate-proofed so they can display fragile documents and tell an enthralling tale of Orkney's role in the world wars. Meanwhile, at Leighton House (the spectacular Victorian home and studio of Frederick, Lord Leighton) a £9.6 million expansion has brought 43 per cent more space into public use. That has enabled the museum to inaugurate a contemporary response to Leighton's fascination with the art of the Middle and Far East. For instance, there's a striking new mural, 11m high, by the Iranian artist Shahrzad Ghaffari, as well as exquisite new furniture commissioned from displaced Syrian artisans.

It's admirable that small museums, as well as big city institutions, are on the shortlist. Perhaps even more important than the money prizes will be the extra publicity generated for their activities, especially when so many leisure attractions are competing for attention and revenue. "We were featured on the TV evening news once," says Daniel Robbins, the senior curator of Leighton House. "The next morning I popped into the corner shop just down the road. The shopkeeper said to me, 'Saw you on the news last night. Where is that museum you work in?' I nearly gave up in despair. Now we have the chance to make a bigger splash."

Art Fund Museum of the Year shortlist

The Burrell Collection Glasgow

Leighton House London

The MAC Belfast

Natural History Museum London

Scapa Flow Museum Orkney

Every Scandi sperm is sacred — and guess who has Viking DNA?

JOHN ANGERSON FOR THE TIMES; GETTY IMAGES





Anyone looking for a donor wants the Nordic stuff. Luckily, my genes are northern, says Simon Mills

I, north man. All Erling Haaland 6ft 1in of me, lantern-jawed, complexion pale, blotchy and brine-stung, hair the tone and texture of storm-bruised seagrass, loins ripe with butch, Nordic seed (maybe), is finally having his Valhalla moment. "Viking", you see, is the aspirational ideal of the year for males, and "Viking baby" currently the buzz request across Europe's sperm banks. The Danes, it seems, are more fecund and proficiently onanistic than the Brits, and Scandi semen is clearly more attractive than domestic stock. Back in 2016 the UK's National Sperm Bank, in Birmingham, had to close down having recruited a reported seven donors. Seven! Over at the European Sperm Bank in Copenhagen, meanwhile, BVE (Big Viking Energy) business has been booming, British women being its best customers. In 2020 21 per cent of all donated sperm used in Britain came from Denmark, home of Vikings. The European Sperm Bank — think the JP Morgan of jizz — says that Danes are more open-minded about donation than Brits. It also pays up to £490 a month to young Vikings donating regularly.

Why Denmark? Maybe it is the brutal yet noble Viking behavioural traits, along with the tall, powerful build, the piercing blue eyes, flowing blond barnet and calm but hardy demeanour? Aspiring mothers from the UK apparently come to the Scandinavians for virility, height, Ryan Gosling levels of handsomeness and an ability to knock up an Ikea Billy shelf in under an hour. Me? I grew up in East Yorkshire, a cruel and harsh, North Sea-facing territory that in AD866, along with neighbouring York, was captured by a great Viking army led by Ivar the Boneless, Ubbe and Halfdan, sons of Ragnar Lothbrok — Ragnar wanted revenge on the East Yorks people after a previous failed raid, when he was captured by King Aella of Northumbria and left to die in a poisonous snake pit.

Reader, it turns out that these fearless, boneless, snake pit-fodder sorts are also my people. A DNA test conducted by ancestry.com a couple of years back proved it beyond all doubt, the Mills DNA showing zero indications of Mediterranean or southern hemisphere exoticism whatsoever. I mean, just look at me. By Odin's beard! I am *all* north, 100 per cent Viking, baby.



Top: Erling Haaland and Simon Mills. Above: Alexander Skarsgard

Truly the Viking is having his pop culture moment in 2023.

Our TV sets now show the *Succession* saga achieving its four-season-long climax, the Roy family in "reverse Viking" (ie pillage their village) mode, trying to outsmart the GoJo billionaire Lukas Matsson. Played by the striking Viking Alexander Skarsgard, this intimidatingly louche, Scandi heterodox type (partly modelled on Daniel Ek, the Swedish founder of Spotify) wears slouchy "gorpcore" garms and laughs when his team calls Cousin Greg "two metres of pure nepotism… an inbred Habsburg giant". A smitten Shiv Roy coyly calls Matsson "very conventionally attractive". Yes, Matsson, in his gold silk bomber jacket and bare feet, may be a 21st-century dick, but he has undeniable, Common Era BVE. The latest episode suggests that Matsson might pillage the Roy family village instead.

More pop culture BVE over in east London, where *Abba Voyage* maintains its status as the live/virtual avatar music event of the decade (more than one million people have already seen it). The Swedish death metal act Amon Amarth tour the UK (the band's stage set includes longships and BVE lyrics like "Stronger! Fight until your dying breath! Fiercer! Harder! This is a matter of life and death!"), Denmark's Mads Mikkelsen co-stars in the latest Indiana Jones film and with his fellow Danish actor Claes Bang (*Bad Sisters*, *The Square*, *The Burnt Orange Heresy* etc) continues to be the Viking crumpet of the moment.

While Svenskt Tenn, Josef Frank and the Nordic hygge aesthetic are the pervading interior design themes among the ice-bathing classes, Lopi wool knits and *Midsommar* headgear are summer 2023's default look for festival girls across Britain. And the Norwegian model is still persistently touted as an alternative to the recession-prone UK's lapsed EU membership.

And is there anything more Viking than the Erling Braut Haaland story? A magnificent Norwegian revenge fable that reads as much like the film director Robert Eggers's berserkingly fabulous *The Northman* as it does Roy of the Rovers?

After suffering a horror tackle at the studs of Manchester United's Roy Keane in 2001, Erling's father, the former Manchester City midfielder Alfe Inge Haaland, trains his son — 6ft 4in tall, flaxen of hair with a marauding gait, a hulking presence in the 18-yard box and a foot like Thor's legendary Mjolnir hammer — to seek retribution. After Erling shows promise for Norway by scoring nine (*nine*) times in a 12-0 demolition of Honduras in the Fifa Under-20 World Cup in 2019, the Haalands return to England's shores (probably by private jet, rather than longship) not to Manchester United but to their now high-flying City rivals. Erling's skills as a goal pillager (36 this season in the Premier League and counting) help the Sky Blues to win the title at a canter (including a 6-3 hammering of United in October 2022) along with a possible treble. All observed by Keane, now a lowly TV pundit who is forced to watch on and pay weekly compliments to the striker from the dark abyss of the studio.

The Vikings, of course, have a word for this. *Klamhogg* is old Norse battle-speak for "shame-stroke", the act of cutting off or stabbing a man's buttocks, an injury designed not only to be debilitating but also sexually humiliating, an outward signifier of the physical and social power that the dominator wielded over the dominated. Roy Keane… you have been well and truly shame-stroked. Expect more BVE and further Keane klamhogging when Haaland's City play United in the FA Cup final at Wembley on June 3. "*Tyr*!" As we Vikings like to say.

times2

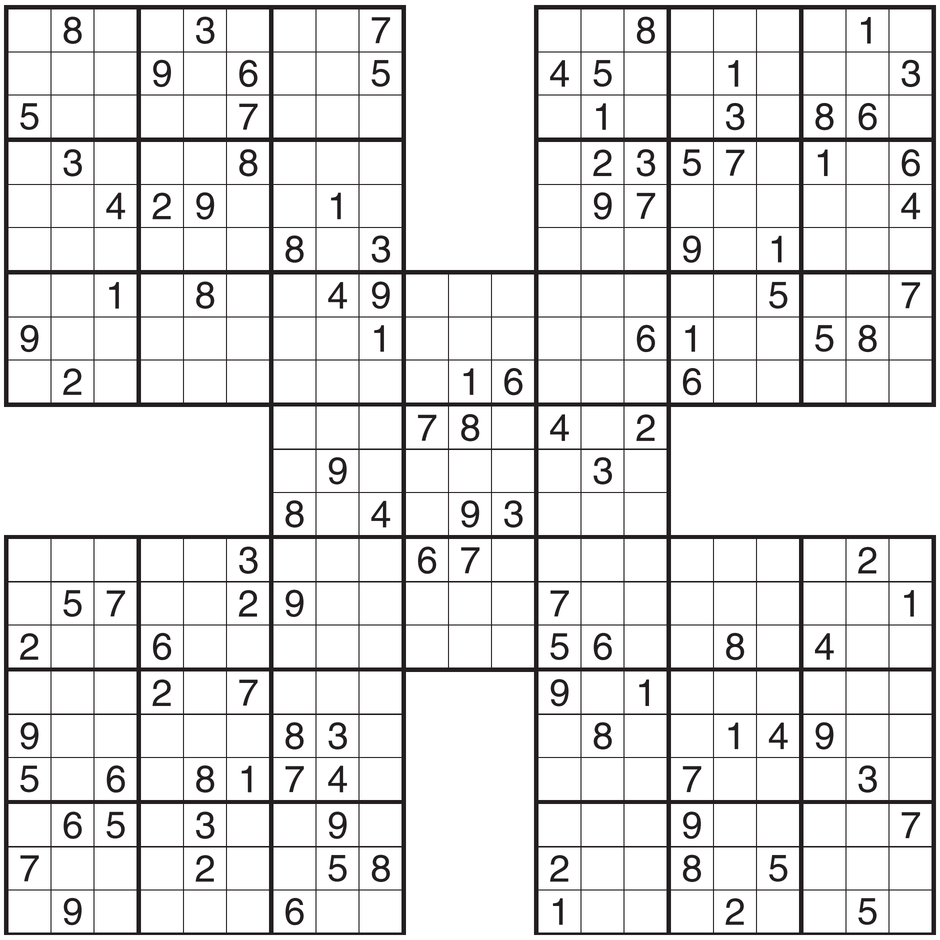
Your weekday brain boost

More puzzles Pages 14-16

Every day, Monday to Thursday, a page of extra puzzles to give your brain an extended workout

Samurai medium

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length.

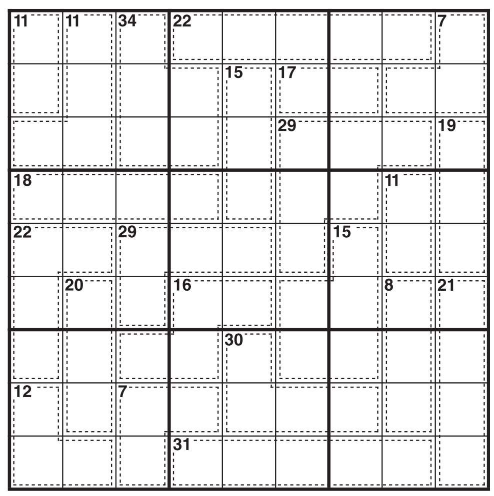


Sudoku fiendish

3			7		1			5
		7				2		
	3			4			2	
			3		5			
		1		6		7		
	5		8		6		1	
4		6		1		3		2
1	2						5	8

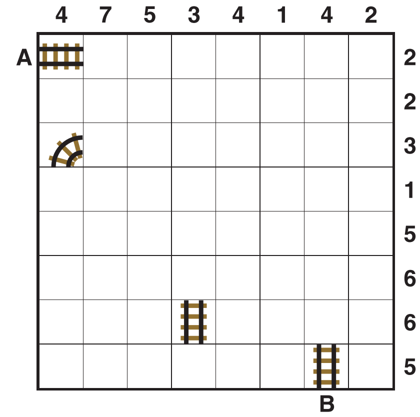
Killer tricky

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.



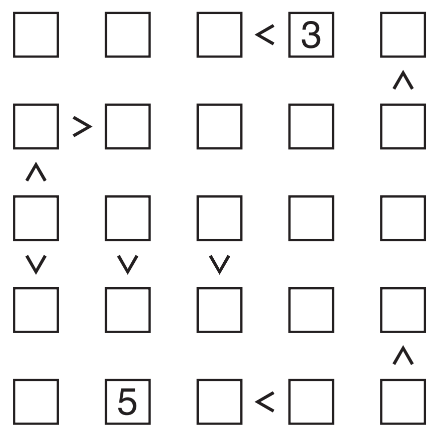
Train Tracks

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.

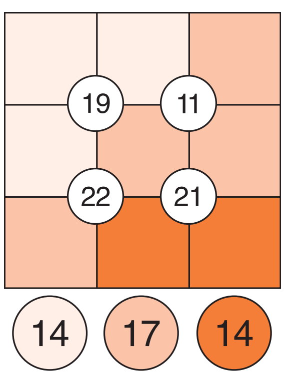


Futoshiki

Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.



Suko

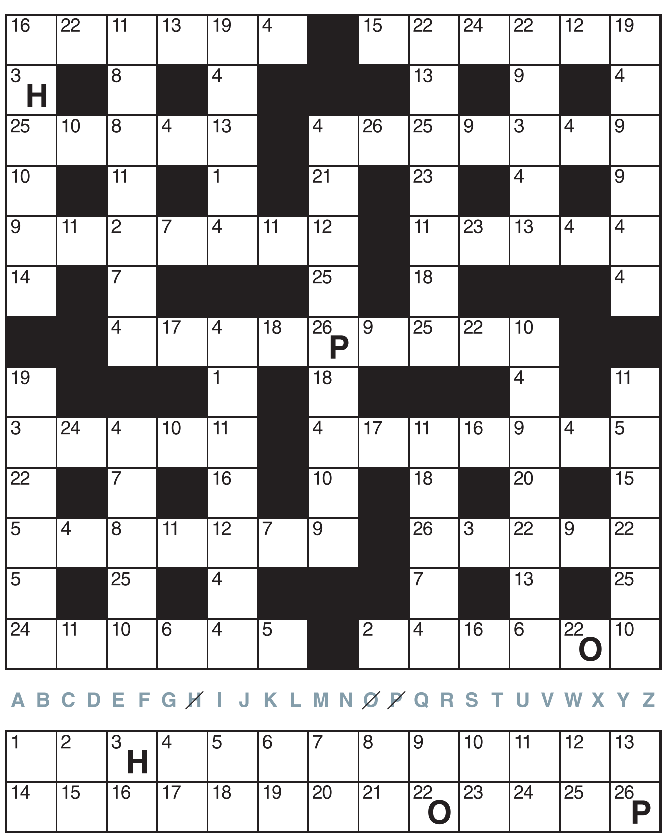


Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

Solve Times puzzles interactively with same-day solutions at thetimes.co.uk

Codeword

Every letter in the crossword-style grid, right, has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded.



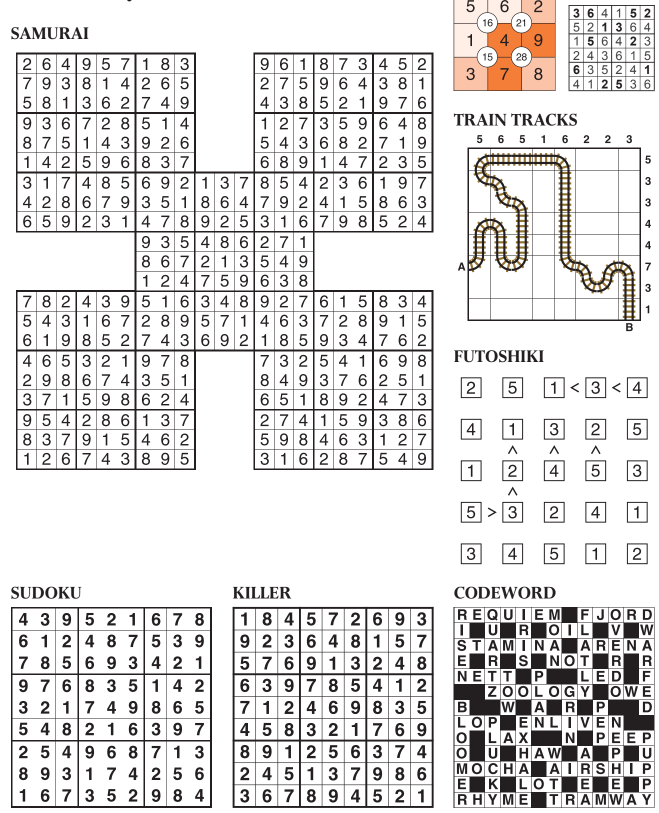
Mini Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x2 box contains the digits 1 to 6

			5		
4		1			
		4			5
			3	1	
2					
3	4			2	

Solutions in tomorrow's Times2

Yesterday's solutions



An intriguing mystery fuelled by sibling rivalry

Carol Midgley
TV review



Maryland
ITV1
★★★★☆

Once Upon a Time in Northern Ireland
BBC2
★★★★★

Wait, did I just watch a primetime TV drama that didn't involve murder, rape, gangs, troubled cops or gratuitous sex? It's a miracle! More remarkable still, Suranne Jones wasn't for once playing an alpha woman in a power blouse. In **Maryland** she is Becca, the dowdier younger sister of Rosaline (Eve Best) with a humdrum "hassled mum" life up north, terrible taste in jumpers and a seemingly useless husband. Rosaline, meanwhile, lives in London, has a high-powered job and no kids, and has sex with a younger man. Chalk-and-cheese sisters thrown together when their mother, Mary, was found dead (but not murdered!) on a beach on the Isle of Man, mystery surrounding why she was there at all — not a bad premise.

Credit to the writer Anne-Marie O'Connor for creating (with Jones) something that doesn't need tired violent tropes for its energy and plot, but uses the simpler, perennial themes of sibling rivalry, secret yearnings and unfulfilled potential. Because as the layers of Mary's double life are pulled back we see that she was suffocated by her marriage to Richard (a brilliantly grouchy George Costigan) and had carved out a secret "third act" with new friends, an outlet to write and a passionate affair with Pete (Hugh Quarshie). It was a bit of surprise to see Rizzo from *Grease* (Stockard Channing) playing one of those new friends and taking delivery of a shedload of cannabis. But if you've watched ahead (spoiler alert), you'll know it's not as dodgy as it looks.

Mary's getaway reminded me of Anne Tyler's novel *Ladder of Years*, in which a woman just walks away from family life and reinvents herself in a new town. But here there's the added dynamic of the tension between Becca and Rosaline, sisters "forged in the same fire" but total opposites. It explores how you never really know someone. An intriguing watch and a refreshing change.

ITV



Eve Best and Suranne Jones play sisters with a tense relationship

Anyone who saw *Once Upon a Time in Iraq* will know that James Bluemel's documentaries are the gold standard when it comes to giving a textured, eclectic picture of hideous conflict. **Once Upon a Time in Northern Ireland** maintained that standard, with the full spectrum of experience of the Troubles laid out: the beauty queen whose brother was murdered; the woman whose father was shot on Bloody Sunday while trying to tend to his dying son; the Protestant who used to hate Catholics; the former British soldier (himself Catholic) blown up by a nail bomb; the men who signed up to the Provisional IRA after the utter disgrace that was Bloody Sunday, the "Bogside massacre" its best recruiting sergeant ever (we saw David Cameron's official apology).

It is history in the round: unhurried, vivid, human, told without judgment or interruption. One of the most disturbing parts of the first episode was a clip of David Frost in Northern Ireland addressing what seemed to be a TV audience of Protestants in the 1970s. A man admitted that they called it "Good Sunday". "The troops didn't shoot half enough of them that day," he added. Shocking, fascinating TV.

Radio choice
Ben Dowell



The Documentary
World Service, 9.30am

After the explosion in Beirut's port area in 2020 the city is still reeling, while Lebanon faces the worst economic and political crisis in its history, with the currency value dropping and large parts of the population living below the poverty line. What is it like to live through the collapse of a city you love and can't bear to leave? In *The Ballad of Beirut*, the writer Lina Mounzer, *above*, presents a day in the life of ordinary people. She talks to grocers, bakers and taxi drivers as well as her friends, one of whom tells her that "money is history" but "Lebanon is an addiction".

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Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app
5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Aasmah Mir and Stig Abell with Times Radio Breakfast. William Hague and Kezia Dugdale discuss the morning's news **10.00** Matt Chorley **1.00pm** Mariella Frostrup. Conversation about the issues that matter **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover. Jane and Fi's trademark entertaining style plus live discussion of the day's news **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive. In-depth discussion **7.00** Pienaar and Friends. Informed debate **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay. Engaging evening conversation **10.00** Carole Walker. Late night news and tomorrow's front page **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz
6.30am The Gary Davies Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay. The actor Philip Glenister chooses the Tracks of My Years **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Jazz Show with Jamie Cullum. A selection of classic tracks and new music from the world of jazz **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7. Seven of Rhythm Nation's biggest hits, uplifting tunes and essential throwbacks **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. The DJ introduces a mix of R'n'B and soulful tunes **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00am** Pick of the Pops (r) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz
6.30am Breakfast
Music, news and listener requests, presented by Petroc Trelawny. Including **7.00**, **8.00** News. **7.30**, **8.30** News headlines
9.00 Essential Classics
Georgia Mann presents music and features
12.00 Composer of the Week: Ligeti (1923-2006)
Kate Molleson and guest Danny Driver look at Ligeti's arrival in the West. Ligeti (*Musica ricercata* — excerpt: I: Sostenuto; Cello Sonata: II: Capriccio. *Presto con slancio*; *Apparitions*: II: Agitato; *Musica ricercata* Nos 9 to 11; No 9, Adagio — *Mesto ded. To Bartok*; No 10, Vivace — Capriccioso; No 11, Andante misurato e tranquillo, *Omaggio a Frescobaldi*; *Lontano*; *Three Pieces for Two Pianos*; *Monument*; and *Selbstportrait*)
1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert
The violinist Jennifer Pike joins Indian maestros and sarod players Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash to perform folk music from Bengal and Assam. Plus, tributes to the poet and composer Rabindranath Tagore, ragas composed by Sarod master Amjad Ali Khan and solo violin music by JS Bach. JS Bach (Preludio from Partita No 3 in E for solo violin BWV1006); Folk music from Bengal and Assam: Selection of Bhatiyali and Raga Kamage. Amjad Ali Khan (*Sacred Evening* — Raga Yaman; and *Romancing Earth* — Raga Pilu)
2.00 Afternoon Concert
Ian Skelly introduces a week of recordings from Denmark and Sweden, beginning with Leonidas Kavakos conducting the Danish National Symphony Orchestra in symphonies by Brahms and Haydn. Plus, Jonas Frølund is the soloist in Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, one of the composer's last completed works before his death. Mozart (Overture to *Ascanio in Alba*); Haydn (Symphony No 64 in A); Monteverdi (*La Sestina* — extract); Regis Campo (*The Wonder of Life*); Brahms (Symphony No 1 in C minor, Op 68); Boccherini (Fandango from Quintet in D); and Mozart (Clarinet Concerto in A, K 622)
5.00 In Tune
Sean Rafferty is joined by the Solem Quartet, performing live in the studio ahead of their concerts at the Norfolk and Norwich Festival
7.00 Classical Mixtape
A selection of classical favourites mixed with jazz, folk and music from around the world
7.30 Radio 3 in Concert
Night-time and dusk have inspired some of the most beautiful music ever written, including Rachmaninov's *Vespers*, the quiet and deeply moving profession of the composer's dedicated faith. Tonight, it's movements are interwoven with serene snapshots of different African twilights by Abel Selaocoe. The BBC Singers, and Abel Selaocoe (cello and voice), under the conductor Sofi Jeannin, perform. Rachmaninov (Vespers, interwoven with music of African twilight)
10.00 Free Thinking
John Gallagher looks at the re-opening of the Manchester Jewish Museum and talks to the novelist Linda Grant
10.45 The Essay: Death in Trieste
Seán Williams explores the speed at which the trial was reported across Europe
11.00 Night Tracks
A soundtrack for late-night listening presented by Hannah Peel
12.30am Through the Night

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz
5.30am News Briefing
5.43 Prayer for the Day
5.45 Farming Today
5.58 Tweet of the Day (r)
6.00 Today
With Mishal Husain and Justin Webb
8.31 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 The Life Scientific
Jim Al-Khalili talks to fellow scientists (1/6)
9.30 One to One
Broadcasters interview people whose stories interest them the most (1/6)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 Book of the Week: The West — A New History of an Old Idea
By Naoíse Mac Sweeney (2/5)
10.00 Woman's Hour
Nuala McGovern presents the magazine
11.00 Living With AI
11.30 Sound Towns
Visiting East Neuk to investigate the origins of Fife's New Folk (3/4)
12.01pm (LW) Shipping Forecast
12.04 Call You and Yours
1.00 The World at One
1.45 Taking Issue with Shakespeare
Emma Smith and Will Self discuss toxic masculinity and *Hamlet* (2/5)
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Drama: The Bully
Zalie Burrow's drama based on the true ordeal of a mother and her son's traumatic journey with obsessive compulsive disorder. With Juliet Aubrey and Charlie Brand (r)
3.00 The Kitchen Cabinet
Jay Rayner presents (5/6) (r)
3.30 Costing the Earth
Steve Backshall investigates why becoming more energy efficient is so expensive
4.00 Law in Action
Legal developments (1/4)
4.30 Great Lives
A profile of the novelist Thoman Mann (8/9)
5.00 PM
5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Olga Koch: OK Computer
The comedian and computer scientist explores the technological world (1/4)
7.00 The Archers
Alice is determined to mark an occasion
7.15 Front Row
8.00 File on 4
Issues of major concern. Last in the series (r)
8.40 In Touch
News for people who are blind or partially sighted, presented by Peter White
9.00 All in the Mind
Claudia Hammond explores the limits and potential of the human mind (5/10)
9.30 The Life Scientific
Jim Al-Khalili talks to fellow scientists about their life and work (1/6) (r)
10.00 The World Tonight
With James Coomarasamy
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece
By Tom Hanks (7/10)
11.00 The Confessional
Stephen Mangan is in conversation with the writer and broadcaster David Quantick, talking about fake news, how to devastate a birthday party, and airborne nudity (6/6) (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament
12.00 News and Weather
12.30am Book of the Week: The West — A New History of an Old Idea (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only
8.00am The Goon Show **8.30** Flywheel, Shyster and Flywheel **9.00** Who Goes There? **9.30** Big Town All Stars **10.00** The Prisoner **11.00** Shadows in Bronze **11.30** The Wolf Far Hence **12.00** In My Mind's Eye **12.15pm** Dead Cert **12.30** North by Northamptonshire **1.00** The Goon Show **1.30** Flywheel, Shyster and Flywheel **2.00** Who Goes There? **2.30** Big Town All Stars **3.00** The Prisoner **4.00** Shadows in Bronze **4.30** The Wolf Far Hence **5.00** In My Mind's Eye **5.15** Dead Cert **5.30** North by Northamptonshire **6.00** The Goon Show **6.30** Flywheel, Shyster and Flywheel **7.00** Who Goes There? Biographical quiz show **7.30** Big Town All Stars. Comedy with Stephen Tompkinson. Last in the series **8.00** Joan Collins — A Life in Lipstick. The actress recalls landing the role of Alexis Colby in *Dynasty*. Last in the series **9.00** Mastertapes. Richard Thompson talks about the making of his 1991 solo album *Rumor and Sigh* **9.30** Ruth Rendell Stories. The Wink **9.45** The Shadow Over Innsmouth. By Julian Simpson **10.00** Comedy Club: Wosson Cornwall. Featuring the UK's first Cornish Prime Minister. Last in the series **10.30** The Jason Byrne Show. Stand-up and sketches about misery and happiness. Last in the series **11.00** It Is Rocket Science. A light-hearted account of the history of the science of rockets **11.15** Paperback Hell. Literary spoofs **11.30** ElvenQuest. Comedy with Stephen Mangan. Last in the series

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909
5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **7.30** 5 Live Sport. A preview of the final weekend of the Women's Super League **8.30** Jill Scott's Coffee Club. The former England player provides an insight into the women's game **9.00** 5 Live Sport: 5 Live Rugby Union **10.00** Colin Murray **1.00am** Johnny I'Anson

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz
5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Laura Woods **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Baker **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off **10.00** Sports Bar **12.00** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only
5.00am James Max **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Jeremy Kyle **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **9.00** The Talk **10.00** Tom Newton Dunn **11.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Paul Ross

6 Music
Digital only
5.00am Chris Hawkins **7.30** Lauren Laverne **10.30** Nemone **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Steve Lamacq **7.00** Tom Robinson **9.00** Amy Lamé **12.00** 6 Music Artist in Residence **1.00am** Wireless Nights **3.00** TAAHLIAH **4.00** The 6 Music Playlist

Virgin Radio
Digital only
6.30am The Chris Evans Breakfast Show with cinch **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz
6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Aled Jones **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

television & radio

Viewing Guide
Ben Dowell

Ben Fogle and The Buried City
Channel 5, 9pm

Top pick

In 1995 a volcano on the British overseas territory of Montserrat erupted. Nineteen people were killed and a large swathe of this tiny paradisal haven — measuring around ten miles by seven – was rendered uninhabitable. Enter Ben Fogle, a man more used to visiting people living in remote locations but who now casts his eye over a place made desolate by the departure of human life. In this film he is given access to the abandoned parts of the island, the exclusion zone, where Plymouth, the once bustling capital, now lies buried under tonnes of volcanic material. The sight of three-storey buildings poking out of the ground shows why this place has been called the Caribbean Pompeii. One of his guides is Scriber, a charismatic local who remembers Plymouth's heyday and brings an emotional as well as informed perspective. He also meets Jumblack, who lives alone in the exclusion zone, growing his own vegetables and trapping wild animals for food. Always a warm and empathetic presenter, Fogle teases out stories of horror and heroism but his subjects are also vivid, articulate guides. Now about 5,000 inhabitants remain — there were 12,000 before the eruption — and towards the close Fogle is keen to tell more upbeat narratives. This includes attempts to revive the island's fortunes by its remaining inhabitants with mining, harnessing geothermal energy and even volcano tourism.

Victim/Suspect
Netflix

"I was raped and they told me that I lied about it" are chilling words and they form a depressingly familiar pattern in this shocking film. Throughout a four-year investigation, the journalist Rae de Leon has identified scores of cases in the US where rape and sexual assault victims are treated as suspects. Disturbing footage in interrogation rooms shows officers talking to people lodging sexual assault and rape claims and deploying cross-examination techniques that are normally reserved for suspects. Some victims give in, but in doing so risk being charged with false reporting.

Early

BBC1
6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Rip Off Britain. The team investigates the scammers using social media to get bank details **10.00** Frontline Fightback. A young mum is killed by a driver trying to show off to his friends **10.45** Defenders UK. Investigating an £800,000 home improvement scam **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer. Featuring properties in Hitchin, London and Nottingham **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt. Charlie Ross visits the Ardingly International Antiques Fair (r) (AD) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Scarlett and Ollie have fun pulling pranks as the Mad Badgers (AD) **2.15** Money for Nothing. JJ Chalmers rescues a birdcage, a suitcase and a coffee table from the tip (r) **3.00** Escape to the Country. Ginny Buckley meets a retired couple from a town in Essex who are hoping to find a new home in a village as close to the county's coast as their £475,000 budget will allow (AD) **3.45** RHS Chelsea Flower Show. A visit to the famous horticultural event **4.30** The Repair Shop. Items include a loyal teddy and a set of vintage golf clubs (r) (AD) **5.15** Pointless. Quiz hosted by Alexander Armstrong (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather

BBC2
6.30am Bargain Hunt (r) **7.15** Money for Nothing (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Coast to Coast Food Festival (r) (SL) **8.30** Coastal Defenders (r) (AD, SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics Live **1.00** Impossible (r) **1.45** Eggheads (r) **2.15** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. The chef visits south Wales (r) (AD) **2.45** A Countryside Summer. Chris Packham and Megan McCubbin visit the Lake District (r) (AD) **3.15** Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands. Michelle Dockery narrates a documentary examining the wildlife of the east Asian country, beginning with the animals that live on the island of Honshu (r) (AD) **4.15** Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr. The semi-finalists upgrade luxury lakeside holiday lodges in the heart of the Cotswolds with designs ranging from bold primary colours to a sophisticated monochrome scheme (r) (AD) **5.15** Flog It! Paul Martin presents from Crowcombe Court in Somerset, where he is joined by experts Elizabeth Talbot and Thomas Plant (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Mehreen Baig, Clare Balding, Jamie Laing and Mike Wozniak (r) **6.30** Great Coastal Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo travels by train from Liverpool to Blackpool (AD)

ITV1
6.00am Good Morning Britain. A lively mix of news and current affairs, plus health, entertainment and lifestyle features **9.00** Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as showbiz stories and gossip. Presented by Lorraine Kelly **10.00** This Morning. A mix of chat, lifestyle features, advice and competitions. Including Local Weather **12.30pm** Loose Women. More celebrity interviews and topical debate from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson and the team head to Aerospace Bristol, where the dealers land amazing deals under the wings of Concorde (r) (AD) **3.00** Tenable. A team of community nurses play to take home a big cash prize by answering a series of Top 10 list questions. Hosted by Sally Lindsay (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.00** The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on one of the ruthless Chasers and secure a cash prize **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather

Channel 4
6.05am Countdown. Annie Macmanus is in Dictionary Corner (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) (AD) **8.25** Frasier (r) (AD) **9.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. Henry Cole and Simon O'Brien find unique items in Gloucestershire (r) (AD) **10.55** Couples Come Dine with Me. Three couples compete to host the best dinner party in Yorkshire (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown. Vick Hope is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** Sun, Sea and Selling Houses. A retired bricklayer plans to lay down new roots in Alicante, hoping to find a place where he can barbecue under sunny skies — although his wife's only request is a dishwasher (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. Craig Rowe meets a pair from Leicestershire who are looking to permanently move to Bergerac in the Dordogne countryside **5.00** Help! We Bought a Village. In France, work is under way to repair the old church at a purpose-built ramshackle Catholic holiday village in France (r) **6.00** The Simpsons. Homer and Marge reveal how they ended up being miserable parents (r) (AD) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Scott tells Felix they must postpone the opening of the Youth Centre, and Cindy gets a surprise on her doorstep (r) (AD)

Channel 5
6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day with co-host Storm Huntley **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues with Storm Huntley, who takes viewers calls on the biggest stories **12.15pm** Alexis Conran. The actor, writer and broadcaster examines the important stories of the day, getting viewers' opinions on them **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Mali rushes to help Rose after hearing that Xander is in hospital, but Mali and Rose have very different ideas of support. Eden is upset by Cash's reaction to her engagement prank (r) (AD) **2.15 FILM: My Daughter's Secret (PG, TVM, 2021)** Wanting to ensure she is accepted by a prestigious college, a student becomes involved in an admission scandal. Thriller starring Karis Cameron **4.00** Paul Martin's Antiques Showdown. The presenter and antiques expert Rachel Holland go head-to-head once more, hoping to find the best items to put under the hammer at auction **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. A team of chemists take part (r) **6.30** Eggheads. Members of two separate pub quiz teams join forces to take part (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



What impact has the rise of easily-accessible hardcore porn had

This month the Children's Commissioner released a report into the under 18s, linking violent pornography and children who go on to commit sexual abuse. We speak with Helen Rumbelow who has followed the evolution of porn through her career and as a mother.

	BBC1	BBC2	ITV1	Channel 4	Channel 5
7PM	**7.00 The One Show** Presented by Alex Jones and Jermaine Jenas **7.30 EastEnders** Stacey faces the judgmental parents at school (AD)	**7.00 Digging for Britain** Alice Roberts examines a Dutch ship which was sunk by the English, a Cornish Roman fort and a 5,000-year-old Neolithic monument (4/6) (r) (AD)	**7.30 Emmerdale** The guilt of cheating on Bob weighs heavy on Wendy (AD)	**7.00 Channel 4 News**	**7.00 Jane McDonald: My Yorkshire** The singer and presenter explores the county, beginning in her home town of Wakefield and taking in the delights of the city and the surrounding market towns. Reflecting on her childhood, she visits the village of Holmfirth (1/5) (r) **7.55 5 News Update**
8PM	**8.00 Waterloo Road** Kelly Jo's makes a shocking revelation, causing problems for Nicky and her family, and Amy finds herself infatuated with a colleague. Kim's day goes from bad to worse after a conversation between her and Lindon is overheard before a meeting with the governors (2/7) (AD)	**8.00 RHS Chelsea Flower Show** The BBC gardening team present the sights and sounds of the famous event with highlights of the gardens and tips for amateur horticulturists	**8.00 Love Your Garden** In Enfield, Hertfordshire, Alan Titchmarsh and his team transform a garden for a woman who has devoted her life to combatting knife crime after the death of her son who was tragically murdered when he was just 17-years-old (AD)	**8.00 The Greatest Auction** The bidders compete for two vintage Hermes handbags, a print by street artist Invader, a 1970s illuminated furniture shop sign and a skateboard designed by Virgil Abloh (3/8) (AD)	**8.00 The Yorkshire Vet** Peter treats a farmer's trusty labrador, that is struggling to walk after cutting itself badly on a nail. Julian operates on a chicken with an infected leg, and Robin rushes to the aid of a pregnant ewe at one of the Huddersfield practice's smaller surgeries
9PM	**9.00 MasterChef** The semi-finals cook a feast for the trainers and first responders at Gloucestershire's Fire Service College, after which they face off in an invention test (AD)	**9.00 Forensics: The Real CSI** When an armed gang robs £300,000 worth of gold from a Birmingham jewellery store, police need to use forensic evidence to track down the gold (2/4)	**9.00 Maryland** Becca and Rosaline struggle to come to terms with the shocking revelations about their mother's past, and they decide to go searching for more answers from Pete and Cathy. *See Viewing Guide* (2/3) (AD)	**9.00 Grand Designs: The Streets** A man from Bicester takes on a self-build project in Graven Hill with the help of his dad, but the stress ramps up when the five-tonne car lift he ordered from China does not fit into the specially prepared hole in the basement (AD)	**9.00 Ben Fogle and the Buried City** Ben explores the Caribbean island of Montserrat's capital, Plymouth, which is now a volcanic ash-covered ghost town after a series of eruptions in the 1990s. He meets people who refused to be driven from their beloved island, rebuilding and creating new lives in the north, as well as a man who has returned to live in the shadow of the volcano and carve out an existence within the exclusion zone. *See Viewing Guide*
10PM	**10.00 BBC News at Ten** **10.30 BBC Regional News and Weather** **10.40 Rain Dogs** Selby, Gloria and Lenny go on a road trip in search of Costello and Iris. Last in the series (AD)	**10.00 Colin from Accounts** Ashley invites her party-loving friends to Echo Park to celebrate her birthday — testing her relationship with Gordon (7/8) **10.30 Newsnight** Analysis of the day's events with Kirsty Wark	**10.00 ITV News at Ten** **10.30 Regional News** **10.45 Fast & Furious 5 (12, 2011)** A fugitive assembles a team of criminals for a heist in Rio, but the FBI's top manhunter is on their trail. Action adventure sequel starring Vin Diesel and Dwayne Johnson (AD)	**10.00 Depp v Heard** As the trial reaches its climax, the jury hear allegations that Johnny kicked Amber down the stairs and a claim of violence on a plane. Last in the series (AD)	**10.30 The Man Who Took Shannon Matthews** With access to family members, neighbours and professionals who knew Michael Donovan, and using drama reconstruction, this is the story of the man who abducted nine-year-old Shannon Matthews in 2008 and kept her in his flat for 24 days before she was found in a dramatic rescue by the police (r)
11PM	**11.05 Matt Willis: Fighting Addiction** Bassist and co-founder of Busted Matt Willis opens up about his experiences battling drug and alcohol addiction and his daily struggle to stay clean and sober. He speaks on the constant fear of relapse and the pressure it puts on himself and his family (r) (AD)	**11.15 Vice (15, 2018)** The story of Dick Cheney, an unassuming bureaucratic Washington insider who quietly wielded immense power as vice president to George W Bush, reshaping America. Starring Christian Bale. *See Viewing Guide* (AD)		**11.05 Gogglebox** The armchair critics share their opinions on programmes including *Love Is Blind, Starstruck, Cheaters, Celebrity Help! My House Is Haunted, Teen First Dates* and *Bradley & Barney Walsh: Breaking Dad* (r) (AD)	**11.55 Shoplifters & Scammers: At War with the Law** Documentary (r)

Late

BBC1
12.05am Question of Sport England cricketer Tammy Beaumont, rugby league great Robbie Hunter-Paul, double Paralympic gold medallist Maisie Summers-Newton and former Bolton Wanderers footballer Fabrice Muamba join team captains Ugo Monye and Sam Quek and host Paddy McGuinness on the quiz (r) **12.40-6.00** BBC News

BBC2
1.20am Sign Zone: Murder in the Pacific The investigation into the sinking of the *Rainbow Warrior* (r) (AD, SL) **2.05** MasterChef. The fifth and final week of heats gets under way (r) (AD, SL) **3.05-4.05** MasterChef. The contestants create the ultimate pot luck supper dish, before the cooks make a dish using spice (r) (AD, SL)

ITV1
12.55am Teleshopping 3.00 Maryland. Becca and Rosaline struggle to come to terms with the shocking revelations about their mother's past, and they decide to go searching for more answers (r) (AD, SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV. Daily escape **5.05-6.00** Bling. Gok Wan meets a customer who needs two rings restoring (r) (SL)

Channel 4
12.05am Gogglebox (r) (AD, SL) **1.05** My Name Is Reeva **2.00** The Lateish Show with Mo Gilligan. With guests Will Poulter, Joel Corry and Rose Ayling-Ellis (r) **2.55** Travel Man: 48 Hours in Dublin (r) (AD) **3.25** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) (SL) **4.15** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **5.10-6.05** Moneybags (r)

Channel 5
12.50am Entertainment News on 5 1.00 Teleshopping **3.00** The Yorkshire Vet. A cow has a rare problem (r) **3.55** GPs: Behind Closed Doors (r) (AD) **4.45** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.10** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Milkshake! Monkey's Amazing Adventures (r) (SL) **5.40** Pip and Posy (r) (SL) **5.45-6.00** Thomas (r) (SL)

Maryland
ITV1, 9pm

Becca (Suranne Jones) and Rosaline (Eve Best) face up to further revelations about their late mother Mary, who had been found dead on an Isle of Man beach. Not only do they have to digest the fact that she had been living a secret life, but the autopsy suggests that her death may not have been entirely accidental. Aided by an excellent ensemble, the writer Anne Marie O'Connor's drama is extraordinarily adept at capturing the painful rhythms of family strife, from the sisterly bickering to the chasms of pain and secrecy that require disinterring. Concludes tomorrow.

Hunting for Klaus Barbie
PBS America, 9.40pm

On July 4, 1987, Klaus Barbie was sentenced to life imprisonment for crimes against humanity. He was estimated to have been responsible for the torture and murder of thousands, but how did the former Gestapo chief evade justice for decades? And was he employed by US and West German spy agencies? Drawing upon the work of the German historian Peter Hammerschmidt, this film also examines how he was brought to justice. Finally located in Bolivia in 1971, he was only extradited to France a decade later. He died in 1991, four years into his sentence.

Inside Kabul
BBC4, 10pm

When the Taliban returned to power in 2021, the lives of two young Afghani women, Raha and Marwa, changed overnight. In this moving and short *Storyville* film they tell their stories via phone voice notes. We never see their faces but the action is accompanied by simple animations, which allows us to focus on their powerful words. Raha, who begins by recounting the time Taliban men visited her family home, chose to stay in the country but Marwa fled with her husband just in time and made her way to a refugee camp in Abu Dhabi and — she hopes — on to Europe.

Film Vice
BBC2, 11.15pm

The weight gain of the captivating lead actor, Christian Bale, and the pitiless evisceration of the film's subject are the talking points that emerge from this effervescent biography of the former US vice-president Dick Cheney that is both dark and funny. (15, 2018)

Sky Max

6.00am Stargate SG-1 (r) **8.00** Supergirl (r) **9.00** Quantum Leap (r) **10.00** The Flash (r) **11.00** NCIS: New Orleans (r) **1.00pm** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **2.00** MacGyver (r) **3.00** Quantum Leap (r) **4.00** Supergirl (r) (AD) **5.00** The Flash. A volatile Ronnie attacks a physicist (r)
6.00 Stargate SG-1. Daniel and Vala take part in missions to try to unlock the Jaffa device (r)
7.00 Stargate SG-1. Vala unwittingly puts her life at risk. Claudia Black stars (r)
8.00 The Flash. Barry is suddenly nowhere to be found, and in trying to get back home, he runs across many familiar faces
9.00 Fantasy Island. A woman needs help deciding who she is going to marry (r)
10.00 Flintoff: Lord of the Fries. Andrew Flintoff takes part in a treasure hunt (5/6) (r) (AD)
11.00 S.W.A.T. An armoured truck heist ends in bloodshed, while Hondo's mother visits (r)
12.00 Brassic (r) (AD) **1.00am** The Force: North East (r) **2.00** Road Wars (r) **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.00** MacGyver (r) **5.00** Highway Patrol (r)

Sky Atlantic

6.00am Fish Town (r) **7.55** The Wire (r) **10.05** True Blood (r) **12.15pm** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **1.20** Ray Donovan (r) (AD) **3.30** The Wire (r) **5.45** True Blood. A possessed Lafayette ends up in a stand-off with the Bellefleurs (r)
6.50 True Blood. Sookie manages to reverse Eric's memory loss (r)
7.55 Game of Thrones. Davos demands to see proof of Melisandre's power (r) (AD)
9.00 Gangs of London. The Wallaces are forced to go into hiding (r) (AD)
10.05 Perry Mason. Paul's shocking discovery brings the brothers' testimony into question, while Perry pursues a plea deal and Della continues her search for answers (4/8)
11.10 Treme. Toni clamps down on Sofia's behaviour after she is caught with drugs, and LaDonna discusses her attack (8/11) (r)
12.20am The Night Of. Naz is transferred to Rikers Island (r) (AD) **1.30** The L Word: Generation Q (r) (AD) **2.30** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **3.35** In Treatment (r) **4.05** Fish Town (r)

Sky Documentaries

6.00am Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (r) (AD) **7.00** Discovering: Donald Sutherland (r) **8.00** The Directors (r) **9.00** The Sixties (r) (AD) **9.50** The Lady and the Dale (r) **10.55** JFK: Destiny Betrayed (r) **12.00** Villeneuve Pironi: Racing's Untold Tragedy (r) **2.00pm** Arthur Miller: Writer (r) **4.00** The Directors (r) **5.00** Discovering: Donald Sutherland (r)
6.00 The Sixties (r) (AD)
6.50 The Lady and the Dale (r)
7.55 JFK: Destiny Betrayed (r)
9.00 Dublin Narcos. The rise in drug addiction and organised crime in Dublin (r)
10.00 Dublin Narcos (r)
11.00 Dublin Narcos (r)
12.00 FILM: Undefeated (12, 2011) Documentary following a high-school American football team **2.10am FILM: The Art of Political Murder (2020)** The murder of a Guatemalan bishop campaigning for justice for war crimes (AD) **4.00** The Directors (r) **5.00** Discovering: Donald Sutherland (r)

Sky Arts

6.00am Sir Simon Rattle: Beethoven Symphonies **7.30** Discovering Dance on Film **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** Discovering: Groucho Marx (AD) **12.00** The Sixties (AD) **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **2.00** The Art of Architecture **3.00** The Directors (AD) **4.00** Discovering: Jean Harlow. A profile (AD)
5.00 Tales of the Unexpected (AD)
6.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents
6.30 Alfred Hitchcock Presents
7.00 The Art of the Garden. Jo Thompson's design for RHS Garden Rosemoor in Devon
8.00 Andrea Bocelli: The Journey
9.00 FILM: Toni Morrison — The Pieces I Am (12, 2019) A profile of the author
11.15 Art Traffickers: Treasures Stolen from the Tombs. The thefts of ancient masterpieces (AD)
12.15am Christian Hook — Painting the Invisible **1.30** Rendezvous with Marlene **3.40** Sky Arts Book Club. With Natasha Brown **4.40** Auction: David Gilmour Special **5.10** Auction

Sky Main Event

6.00am Sky Sports News **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans. Including news and views on today's early stories and a look at the back pages **10.00** The Football Show **12.00** Sky Sports News **3.00pm** Live Indian Premier League. Coverage of the first qualifier from M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai
7.00 Sky Sports News. Round-up of the sports news, with live analysis and comment, plus extended interviews with the headline-makers
10.30 Back Pages Tonight. A look at the sports headlines in tomorrow's newspapers
11.00 Sky Sports News. Round-up of the sports news, with live analysis and comment, plus extended interviews with the headline-makers
12.30am NBA Basketball. A look ahead to the evening's NBA action **1.30** Live NBA Basketball: Miami Heat v Boston Celtics (Tip-off **1.30**). Coverage of game four of the Eastern Conference finals comes from FTX Arena **4.00** Inside the NBA. Post-game analysis of an NBA match **5.00** Sky Sports News. Round-up of the sports news

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TalkTV

6.00am James Max. An initial insight into the day's top stories **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show. The host covers all the big stories to start the day **9.30** Mike Graham and Kevin O'Sullivan. A look through the morning newspapers **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham. The host takes a look at the morning newspapers **1.00pm** Ian Collins. Monologues, debates and time for viewers' calls
4.00 Vanessa Feltz. The presenter gives a guide through the big stories of the day
7.00 Jeremy Kyle. The straight-talking host takes on the issues that really matter
8.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored. The host presents his verdict on the day's global events with debate, straight-talking interviews with the world's leading figures, and plenty of fun
9.00 The Talk. A panel of famous faces from the worlds of politics, showbiz, business and current affairs debate the latest topics
10.00 First Edition. Tomorrow's newspapers
11.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored
12.00 Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Jeremy Kyle **2.00** Vanessa Feltz **3.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **4.00** The Talk **5.00** James Max

BBC4

7.00pm Railways: The Making of a Nation. Examining how the railways enabled people to live farther from the places they worked
7.30 Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam. Exploring the invention of the steam turbine (6/6)
8.00 As Time Goes By. Lionel asks Jean to accompany him on an all-expenses-paid cruise
8.30 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? Terry tracks down his former girlfriends
9.00 Expedition Volcano. Following scientists studying volcanos in the Democratic Republic of Congo, beginning with Nyiragongo (1/2)
10.00 Inside Kabul: Storyville. Animation about the experiences of two Afghan women after the Taliban's return to power. *See Viewing Guide*
10.30 Escape from Kabul Airport. The inside story of the largest airlift in modern US history
11.45 Britain and the Sea. David Dimbleby follows the trade routes of the west coast of Scotland, sailing down a waterway designed by East Lothian engineer John Rennie (3/4)
12.45am Welcome to Chechnya: The Gay Purge — Storyville. Documentary **2.25** Railways: The Making of a Nation. With Liz McIvor **2.55-3.55** The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway (SL)

Talking Pictures

6.00am FILM: Road to Happiness (U, 1941) (b/w) **7.20** Sherlock Holmes (b/w) **7.50 FILM: There Was a Young Lady (U, 1953)** (b/w) **9.30** Interpol Calling (b/w) **10.00 FILM: The Last Days of Dolwyn (U, 1948)** (b/w) **11.55 FILM: Dangerous Crossing (PG, 1953)** (b/w) **1.30pm FILM: Khartoum (PG, 1966)** Fact-based historical adventure starring Charlton Heston **4.15 FILM: Forbidden Cargo (PG, 1954)** Drama starring Nigel Patrick (b/w)
6.00 Colonel March of Scotland Yard (b/w)
6.30 Scotland Yard
7.05 Danger UXB
8.05 The Human Jungle (b/w)
9.05 Maigret
10.55 Cellar Club with Caroline Munro
11.00 FILM: The Puppet Masters (15, 1994) Sci-fi horror starring Donald Sutherland
1.10am Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **1.15 FILM: Attack Of The Lederhosen Zombies (15, 2016)** Horror comedy with Laurie Calvert **2.50** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **2.55 FILM: Tales from the Crypt (18, 1972) 4.45** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **4.50** One Step Beyond (b/w) **5.25** Mrs G Goes to College (b/w)

Film4

11.00am The Wrong Box (U, 1966) Black comedy starring John Mills and Ralph Richardson **1.10pm First Men in the Moon (U, 1964)** Sci-fi adventure with Lionel Jeffries and Edward Judd (AD) **3.15 The Cockleshell Heroes (U, 1955)** Fact-based Second World War drama with Jose Ferrer **5.15 The Guns of Fort Petticoat (PG, 1957)** Western starring Audie Murphy
6.55 Sister Act (PG, 1992) A nightclub singer is sent to live in a convent for her own protection after agreeing to testify against a brutal gangster. Comedy starring Whoopi Goldberg and Harvey Keitel (AD)
9.00 Alien: Covenant (15, 2017) A crew of colonists sent to populate an alien planet have their mission diverted by a mysterious signal. Ridley Scott's sci-fi thriller starring Katherine Waterston and Michael Fassbender (AD)
11.20 The Craft: Legacy (15, 2020) Three girls attempting to freeze time welcome a newcomer into their coven with dramatic results. Sequel to 1996 horror drama *The Craft* starring Cailee Spaeny and Gideon Adlon
1.10am-3.35 Joy (12, 2015) Fact-based drama starring Jennifer Lawrence (AD)

More4

8.55am Kirstie's Vintage Gems **9.15** A Place in the Sun **10.05** A New Life in the Sun **11.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (AD) **1.10pm** Heir Hunters **3.10** Four in a Bed **5.50** Come Dine with Me: The Professionals. Teams compete in Glasgow
6.55 Escape to the Château: DIY. An owner has a month to convert her old stable into a studio for the launch of her art weekends (AD)
7.55 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows a couple's project to transform a 1960s forester's lodge into a unique Japanese home (6/12) (AD)
9.00 24 Hours in A&E. Three boys are admitted for very different reasons, including a cyclist who arrives with head, neck and facial injuries having been involved in a traffic accident (AD)
10.00 Brain Surgeons: Between Life and Death. Documentary following patients undergoing life-changing brain surgery at the Neurological Centre in Southampton (AD)
11.05 999: On the Front Line. A young man with curvature of the spine and a high temperature has multiple triggers for sepsis (10/10)
12.10am Emergency Helicopter Medics (AD) **1.15** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **2.15** 24 Hours in A&E (AD) **3.20-3.50** A Place in the Sun

ITV2

6.00am World's Funniest Videos **6.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records (SL) **7.00** Dress to Impress (SL) **8.00** One Tree Hill **9.00** Dawson's Creek **10.00** Secret Crush **11.00** Dress to Impress **12.00** Celebrity Dinner Date (AD) **1.00pm** Family Fortunes **2.00** Chuck **3.05** One Tree Hill **4.00** Dawson's Creek **5.00** Celebrity Dinner Date. Featuring Gemma Oaten (AD)
6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase. With Sally Dynevor, Barney Walsh and Zoe Williams (AD)
7.00 Superstore (AD)
7.30 Superstore (AD)
8.00 Bob's Burgers (AD)
8.30 Bob's Burgers (AD)
9.00 Hell's Kitchen. The three finalists create their own menus
10.00 Family Guy (AD)
10.35 Family Guy (AD)
11.00 Family Guy (AD)
11.30 American Dad! (AD)
12.00 American Dad! (AD) **12.30am** Bob's Burgers (AD) **1.25** Superstore (AD) **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records (SL) **2.50** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3

6.00am Classic Emmerdale **7.05** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **8.10** On the Buses **9.20** Wild at Heart (AD) **11.30** Heartbeat (AD) **1.40pm** Classic Emmerdale **3.15** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **3.45** Foyle's War. Foyle uncovers financial corruption (AD) **5.55** Heartbeat. Greengrass embarks on a new career as a racehorse trainer (AD)
6.55 Heartbeat. Bernie reveals a hidden talent, while Phil Bellamy is babysitting Maggie Bolton's son, but when he wakes up from a little nap to feed the baby, he is missing (AD)
8.00 Midsomer Murders. A local boxer's successful world title bid stirs up hidden passions among the residents of Midsomer Morchard. As plans to stage a celebratory re-enactment of a Victorian prizefight shape up, jealousy and blackmail take a ringside seat (AD)
10.00 Wire in the Blood. Tony is the last person to see a friend alive at a psychology convention, and immediately becomes prime suspect when she is found murdered (3&4/8) (AD)
12.05am Wild at Heart (AD) **2.15** Unwind with ITV **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

6.00am Minder (AD, SL) **7.00** The Professionals (AD, SL) **8.05** The Champions **9.10** The Return of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **10.20** Magnum, PI **11.20** The Champions **12.25pm** The Return of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **1.40** Giant Lobster Hunters **2.40** Magnum, PI **3.45** The Professionals (AD) **4.50** Minder (AD) **5.55** Giant Lobster Hunters. The crews face their greatest challenge due to the pandemic (AD)
6.55 BattleBots. Eight bots battle it out
8.00 The Motorbike Show. The history of motorcycle manufacturing company Triumph
9.00 No Room for Error. A competitor has a lucky escape from a fiery accident
10.00 An Audience with Billy Connolly. The comedian descends on London to entertain a celebrity crowd, covering topics including ageing, parties and his idea for a new national anthem
11.10 All Elite Wrestling: Rampage. Hard-hitting, high-flying wrestling action
12.20am Auto Mundial. Featuring a Renault Clio **12.50** Motorsport Mundial **1.20** The Professionals (AD, SL) **2.15** The Protectors (SL) **2.40** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

Drama

6.00am Teleshopping **7.10** Pie in the Sky **8.00** Lovejoy **9.15** Classic Holby City **10.35** Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.40pm** Classic EastEnders **2.00** Tenko **3.00** Lovejoy **4.10** Peak Practice **5.25** May to December
6.00 Just Good Friends
6.40 Last of the Summer Wine
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine. A local adventurer comes unstuck
8.00 Dalziel & Pascoe. A priest is murdered in a village, and the duo arrive to find a community divided. While searching for a likely suspect, they discover the body of a girl (3/5) (AD)
10.00 New Tricks. The unsolved murder of a pornographer is reopened when his daughter provides DNA proof he was not her father, and the woman originally acquitted of the crime faces new questions (5/10) (AD)
11.20 Silent Witness. Sam is called to examine the bodies recovered from a helicopter crash, and her findings soon threaten to rip through the heart of the local community
1.35am Happy Valley (AD) **2.55** Classic Holby City (SL) **4.00** Teleshopping

Yesterday

6.10am Trains That Changed the World **8.00** Abandoned Engineering (AD) **9.00** World War Weird **10.00** Great British Railway Journeys **11.00** The Fred Dibnah Story **12.00** Great Continental Railway Journeys **1.00pm** Great British Railway Journeys **2.00** Bangers and Cash **4.00** World War Weird **5.00** Great British Railway Journeys. With Michael Portillo
6.00 Canal Boat Diaries
6.30 Villages by the Sea
7.00 Bangers and Cash. A delightful collection of British classics comes up for auction
8.00 Joanna Lumley's India. Joanna embarks on the final leg of her journey through India
9.00 Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics. The team takes on the restoration of a 1992 Vauxhall Nova Merit Plus (AD)
10.00 Bangers and Cash. Dave finds a very rare 70s Sunbeam Lotus (4/10)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering. A country littered with concrete mushrooms (9/11) (AD)
12.00 Great British Railway Journeys **1.00am** Trains That Changed the World **2.00** Forbidden History (AD) **3.00** Teleshopping

Variations

BBC1 N Ireland
As BBC1 except: 10.40pm Spotlight. Conor Spackman reports on unsolved gun murders in Belfast **11.10** Rain Dogs. Selby, Gloria and Lenny go on a road trip in search of Costello and Iris **11.40** Matt Willis: Fighting Addiction. The Busted bassist shares his experiences battling drug and alcohol addiction (r) (AD) **12.40am** Question of Sport (r) **1.10-6.00** BBC News

BBC1 Scotland
As BBC1 except: 7.00pm-7.30 River City. Nicole tries to get closer to Karen (r)

BBC1 Wales
As BBC1 except: 12.35am-12.40 Weather for the Week Ahead

BBC2 Wales
As BBC2 except: 1.45pm First Minister's Questions **2.45** Eggheads (r) **3.15** Planet Earth: A Tale of Three Bears (r) **3.30** James Martin's Food Map of Britain (r) (AD) **4.00** Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands. The island of Honshu (r) (AD) **5.00-6.00** Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr. The semi-finalists upgrade luxury holiday lodges (r) (AD)

ITV1 Wales
As ITV1 except: 8.00pm Wales This Week: The Shape of Wales. Examining the effects climate change is having on Welsh coastlines **8.30-9.00** Welsh Lives. Adeola Dewis visits the seaside town of Barry Island (r)

STV
As ITV1 except: 10.30pm STV News **10.40** Scotland Tonight **11.05** DNA Journey. Amanda Holden and Alan Carr delve into their family histories (r) (AD) **12.15am-3.00** Teleshopping **3.50-5.05** Night Vision. News and sport

BBC Scotland
7.00pm Inside the Zoo. A project to save Scotland's wildcats (r) (AD) **8.00** Paramedics on Scene (r) (AD) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Aberdeen '83: Once in a Lifetime (r) **11.00** David Wilson's Crime Files: Cold Cases (r) (AD) **11.30-12.00** Raiders of the Lost Archive (r)

BBC Alba
6.00am Alba Today **5.00pm** AH-AH/No-No (r) **5.10** Leum is Danns (Jump and Dance) (r) **5.20** Oscar & Ealasaid **5.35** Shane an Chef (r) **5.48** 'S E Iasg a Th'Annam (I'm a Fish) (r) **5.50** Stòiridh (r) **6.00** An Saoghal Droil aig Pol Ploc/The Rubbish World of Dave Spud (r) **6.10** A-null 's a-nall (r) **6.25** Geamaichean Gorach (r) **6.30** @12 (r) **6.35** Stri (r) **6.40** Triuir aig Tri (r) **7.00** Vets: Gach Creutair Beo (r) **7.30** SpeakGaelic (r) **8.00** An Là **8.30** Dealbhan Fraoich (Heather's Portraits) (r) **9.00** Talamh Torrach (Scotland's Food and Drink) (r) **10.00** Trusadh (Compelling Stories) (r) **11.00** Machair (r) **11.25** Dàn (r) **11.30** Alleluia! (Spiritual Music & Verse) (r) **12.00-6.00am** Alba Today

S4C
6.00am Cyw: Sali Mali (r) **6.05** Jamborî (r) **6.15** Guto Gwningen (r) **6.30** Gwdihw (r) **6.45** Digbi Draig (r) **7.00** Caru Canu (r) **7.05** Sam Tân **7.15** Sbarc (r) **7.30** Octonots (r) **7.45** Kim a Cet a Twrch **8.00** Og y Draenog Hapus (r) **8.10** Pablo (r) **8.25** Asra (r) **8.40** Abadas (r) **8.50** Shwshaswyn (r) **8.55** Loti Borloti (r) **9.10** Ynys Broc Môr Lili (r) **9.20** Dwylo'r Enfys (r) **9.35** Sion y Chef (r) **9.45** Ysbyty Cyw Bach (r) **10.00** Sali Mali (r) **10.05** Jamborî (r) **10.15** Guto Gwningen (r) **10.30** Gwdihw (r) **10.45** Digbi Draig (r) **11.00** Caru Canu (r) **11.05** Sam Tân (r) **11.15** Sbarc (r) **11.30** Octonots (r) **11.45** Kim a Cet a Twrch (r) **12.00** News; Weather **12.05pm** Cegin Bryn: Yn Ffrainc (r) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Pobol y Penwythnos (r) **1.30** Ffermio (r) **2.00** News; Weather **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News; Weather **3.05** Priodas Pum Mil (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Sali Mali (r) **4.05** Jamborî (r) **4.15** Sam Tân (r) **4.25** Sion y Chef (r) **4.40** Kim a Cet a Twrch (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Mwy o Stwnsh Sadwrn **5.25** Dennis a Dannedd (r) **5.40** Bwystfil (r) **5.50** Siwrne Ni (r) **5.55** Ffeil **6.00** Y Sioe Fwyd (r) (AD) **6.30** Ffilmiau Ddoe (r) **6.57** News; Weather **7.00** Heno **7.30** News; Weather **8.00** Pobol y Cwm (AD) **8.25** Rownd a Rownd (AD) **8.55** News; Weather **9.00** Ffit Cymru **10.00** Seiclo: Giro d'Italia **10.45** Blacowt **11.40-12.15am** Goreuon Gwesty Aduniad (r) (AD)

MindGames

Tetonor Moderate No 363

61	50	324	15
41	96	20	378
330	39	220	43
16	390	49	60

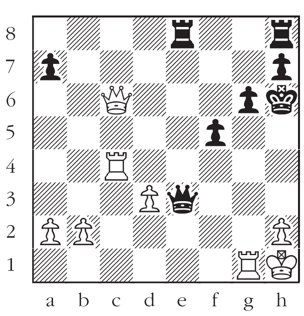
	5	6	7	8	10	10		12				30			54

When complete, the strip below the grid can be split into eight pairs of numbers. Adding the numbers in a pair gives one of the 16 numbers in the grid. Multiplying them gives a different number in the grid. For example, a 4 and 6 in the strip could be paired to make 10 (4+6) and 24 (4x6) in the grid. Enter each sum below the corresponding number in the grid. The blanks in the strip must be deduced, bearing in mind the numbers are listed in ascending order.

The next Tetonor puzzle will appear on Thursday

For more puzzles, including Mini Sudoku, extra Codeword, Train Tracks and Futoshiki go to page 10

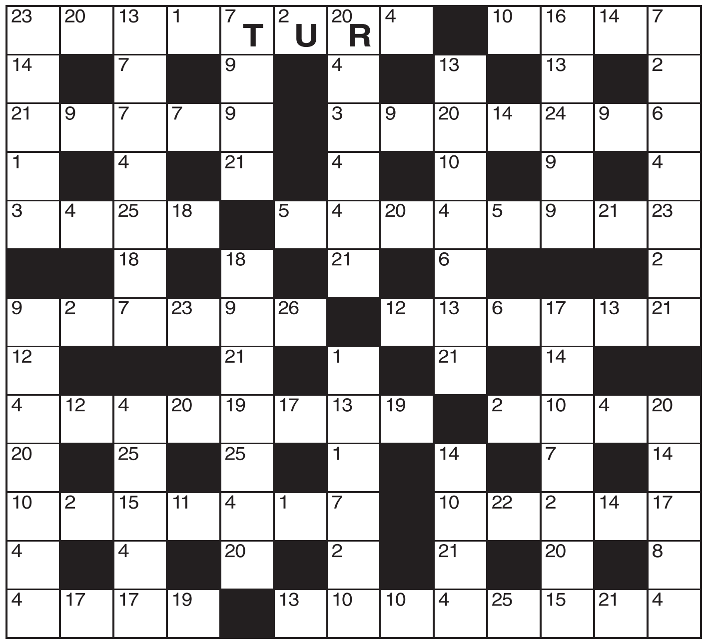
Winning Move



White to play.
This position is from Cruz-Zaloznyy, Los Angeles 2023.

If you place a piece on a poor square you can always rectify your mistake and relocate it later (albeit with a loss of time). However, pawn moves cannot be retracted. Although Black's king is clearly exposed it wouldn't be much of a problem if he were able to play the f5-pawn to f7 and then ... Kg7. How does White exploit the airy king?

Codeword No 4908



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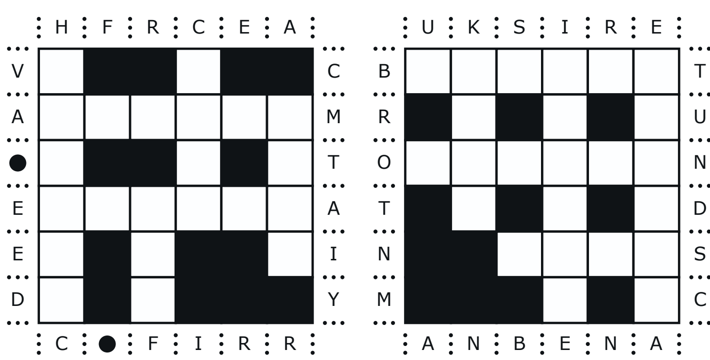
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q ~~R~~ S ~~T~~ ~~U~~ V W X Y Z

1	2 U	3	4	5	6	7 T	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 R	21	22	23	24	25	26

Every letter in this crossword-style grid has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. *Yesterday's solution, right*

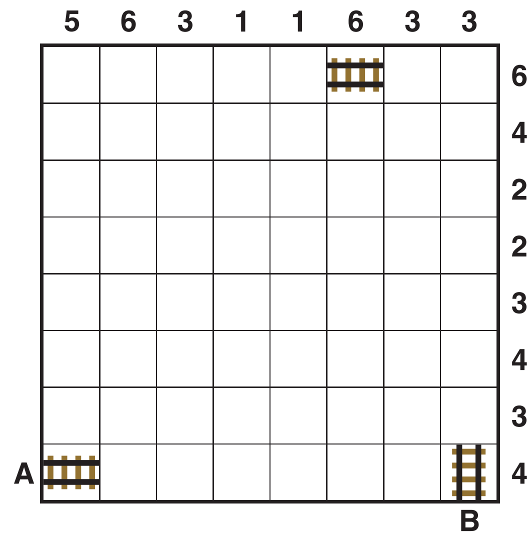
Cluelines **Stuck on Codeword?** To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

Lexica No 6883 No 6884



Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

Train Tracks No 1943



Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.

Quintagram®

Solve all five **cryptic** clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Promise information (4)

_ _ _ _

2 Celebration in bar recalled (5)

_ _ _ _ _

3 French painter inside painting restroom (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

4 Mocking remark about Somerset market town (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Indeed, rows involved quilts (10)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	D	D	D	E	E	E	E
E	G	I	I	L	N	N	N
N	O	O	O	R	R	R	R
S	S	T	T	U	V	W	W

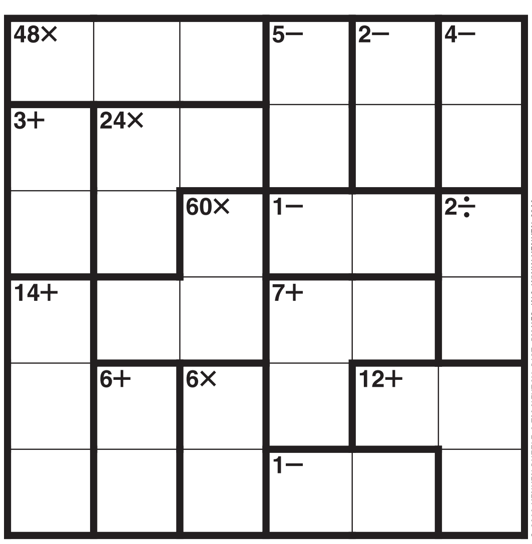
Challenge your mind with puzzle books from The Times



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Email: puzzles@thetimes.co.uk

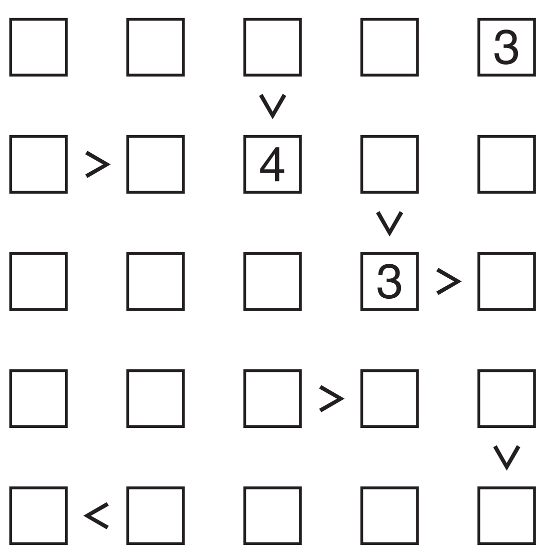
KenKen Medium No 5900



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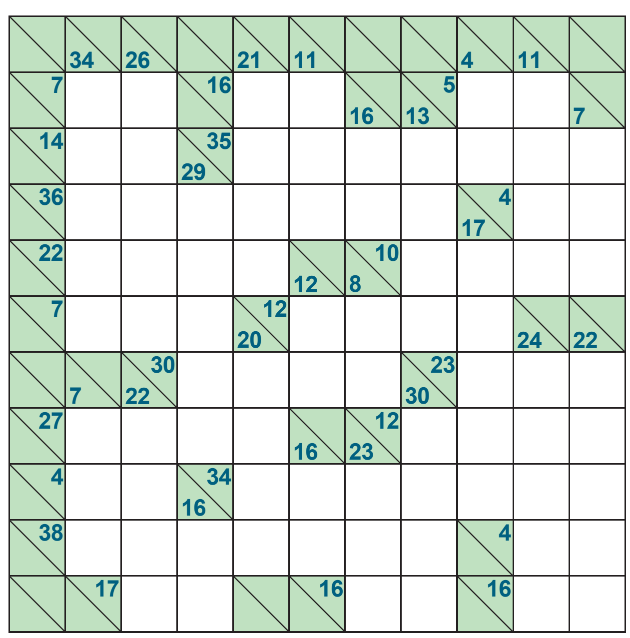
All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Futoshiki No 4482



Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

Kakuro No 3441

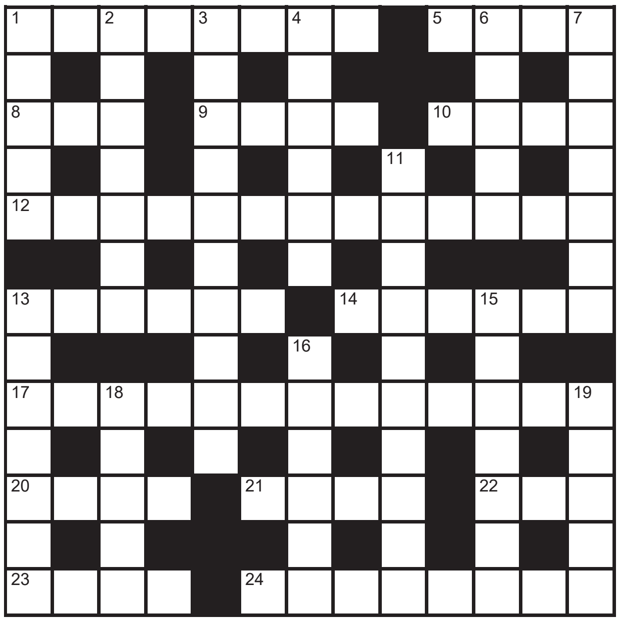


Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

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MindGames

times2 Crossword No 9224



Across
1 By-product of refining sugar (8)
5 Retail establishment (4)
8 Period of 1,440 minutes (3)
9 Be concerned about (4)
10 For no money (4)
12 Suitability for flight (13)
13 Travelling seller (6)
14 Observe, see (6)
17 Ending disappointingly (13)
20 Take a tumble (4)
21 Dorsal region (4)
22 Wages (3)
23 Walk with long strides (4)
24 Lover of fine art (8)

Down
1 Channels of information (5)
2 Arranged in strata (7)
3 Of special religious significance (10)
4 List of printed mistakes (6)
6 Large mob (5)
7 Content, satisfied (7)
11 Nautical safety device (4,6)
13 Frolicsome (7)
15 Eightfold (7)
16 Desert illusion (6)
18 Spring flower (5)
19 Glasgow's river (5)

Solution to Crossword 9223

T	R	E	M	B	L	E		P	O	S	I	T
R		D		E		N		U		K		R
E	M	I	N	E	N	C	E	G	R	I	S	E
N		N		T		Y		I				A
D	E	B	T		S	C	U	L	P	T	E	D
		U		A		L		I		H		L
C	A	R		B	O	O	T	S		A	L	E
O		G		R		P		M		N		
U	P	H	E	A	V	A	L		S	K	I	P
N				S		E		F		L		I
S	E	L	F	I	N	D	U	L	G	E	N	T
E		I		O		I		A		S		T
L	U	P	I	N		A	M	N	E	S	I	A

Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Bridge Andrew Robson

England won the 2023 Lady Milne, the annual home nations trophy for women. It was a close run thing, mind, England finishing with 67.07 victory points, Ireland in second with 65.12 and Scotland in third with 58.72.

The victorious English team was Debbie Sandford & Kath Stynes, Nevena Senior & Anne Rosen, Sally Anoyrkatis & Venetia Anoyrkatis. Venetia, aged 16, broke the record for youngest ever winner, taking the record from her mother Sally (and partner for this event) in 1990. Sally and Venetia also topped the individual Butler rankings, a fabulous performance.

Kath Stynes and Debbie Sandford from London were the only N-S pair to bid and make game on the deal from the second match.

Declarer, Stynes, won West's king of hearts lead with the ace and banged out the three top spades, getting the bad news that East held two winners (West discarding a diamond and a heart; dummy discarding two diamonds). Undaunted, declarer cashed the ace of clubs and led a club to the ten. The finesse succeeding, declarer now cashed the king of clubs and shed her losing heart. She then ruffed a heart.

With eight tricks in the bag, declarer led a diamond towards dummy. She would have risen with the king if West had played low (needing West to hold the ace, otherwise East can draw her two remaining spades). Actually, West rose with the ace of diamonds — then led the queen of hearts. Declarer ruffed and crossed to the king of diamonds. That was ten tricks in the bag, leaving East to win the last two tricks with her jack-ten of spades. Game made — very well played.

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

Dealer: South, Vulnerability: Neither

Teams

North: ♠4 ♥J1096 ♦K1063 ♣KJ107
West: ♠5 ♥KQ843 ♦A98 ♣Q652
East: ♠J10976 ♥72 ♦Q42 ♣983
South: ♠AKQ832 ♥A5 ♦J75 ♣A4

S(Stynes)	W	N(Sandford)	E
1♠	2♥ (1)	Dbl(2)	Pass
3♥ (3)	Pass	3NT(4)	Pass
4♠ (5)	End		

(1) Marginal decision. About half the Wests passed ("you can't fight the spade suit") and half overcalled 2♥. Double is a sound third alternative, perhaps even best of all — safer than 2♥ as it puts more eggs in the basket.
(2) Negative, a bold call call by Debbie Sandford — but the perfect way to locate a minor-suit part-score. A big plus of doubling is it saves you having to guess what to do if you pass and partner reopens with a take-out double. The second-best N-S result on this board occurred at another table where West had overcalled 2♥ and North chose to pass then convert partner's reopening take-out double into penalties by passing. This netted +300.
(3) Setting up a game-force.
(4) Hearts stopped.
(5) May pass 3NT with her running-tricks hand but you can't fault a 4♠ bid.

Contract: 4♠, Opening Lead: ♥K

Brain Trainer

EASY 22	x 5	HALF OF IT	− 7	÷ 4	HALF OF IT	x 9	+ 6	÷ 5	x 3	ANSWER
MEDIUM 248	÷ 8	− 7	HALF OF IT	- 1/4 OF IT	SQUARE IT	x 3	÷ 3	DOUBLE IT	x 2	ANSWER
HARDER 88	+ 5/8 OF IT	x 3	+ 11	+ 3/4 OF IT	x 2	+ 5	- 1/3 OF IT	÷ 5	x 7	ANSWER

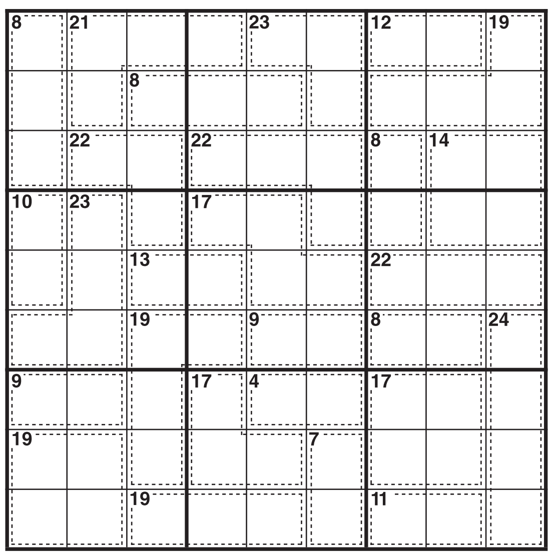
Polygon



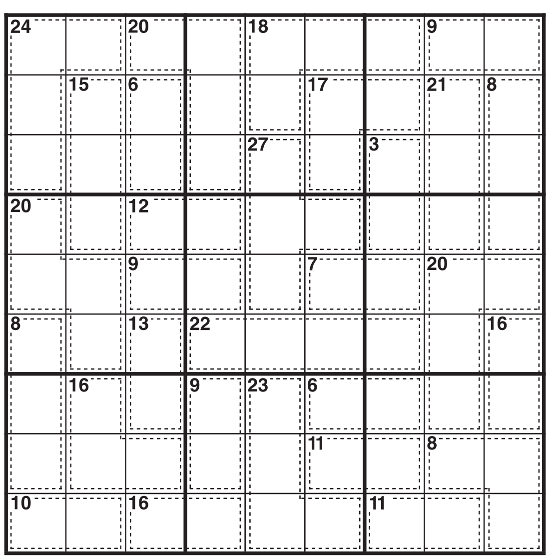
From these letters, make words of **three** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives.
How you rate 12 words, average; 17, good; 19, very good; 21, excellent

Yesterday's answers
aim, air, amir, emir, imp, ire, mire, pair, peri, pia, pie, pier, prim, prime, rai, ramie, ria, rim, rime, rip, ripe, rive, vair, **vampire**, via, vie, vim, viper

Killer Moderate No 8888



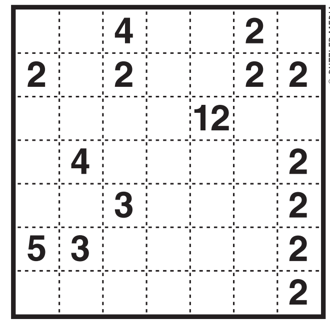
Killer Tough No 8889



As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Cell Blocks No 4791



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

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Set Square No 3444

	+		÷		= 11
+	■	×	■	×	
	÷		+		= 8
+	■	+	■	−	
	×	7	+	4	= 67
= 18		= 23		= 1	

Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

Please note, BODMAS does not apply

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Solutions

Quick Cryptic 2400

R	A	D	A	R		S	I	D	E	A	R	M
O		A		O		I		O		C		A
M	A	Y	P	O	L	E		G	E	T	O	N
P		S		S		S				U		I
			B	E	T	T	E	R	H	A	L	F
L		B		V		A		O		L		E
E	L	E	V	E	N		S	T	Y	L	U	S
N		E		L		C		T		Y		T
I	N	F	A	T	U	A	T	E	D			
N		C				P		R		B		K
I	R	A	T	E		O	L	D	B	E	A	N
S		K		G		N		A		A		I
T	H	E	R	O	P	E		M	E	R	I	T

Codeword 4907

O	D	O	U	R		E	T	H	O	S		G
	U			Y	E	N		A		W	O	O
D	O	W	S	E		A	M	P	L	E		U
I		H				B		H		E		R
G	U	E	R	R	I	L	L	A		P	O	D
I		L		E		E		Z			D	
T	Y	P	I	F	Y		J	A	C	K	E	T
	E			L		S		R		N		U
T	W	O		E	X	P	E	D	I	E	N	T
U		F		X		A				E		O
R		F	R	I	A	R		T	I	L	E	R
B	R	A		V		S	K	I			M	
O		L	I	E	G	E		P	I	Q	U	E

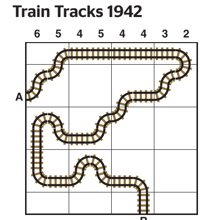
Kakuro 3440

1	4	6			4	5	3	1	2
3	2	1	9		6	3	1	2	4
	1	3	7	2				3	1
2	8	9		7	9		6	5	
1	5	7	9		8	9	5		
		8	5	9		8	7	3	9
	4	5		3	1		9	6	8
1	3				2	7	3	1	
4	2	1	9	8		9	8	4	3
2	1	3	7	9			4	2	1

Sudoku 14,057

9	6	8	7	3	1	5	2	4
2	1	3	4	5	6	9	7	8
4	5	7	9	2	8	6	1	3
6	4	1	3	8	7	2	5	9
5	7	2	6	9	4	3	8	1
8	3	9	2	1	5	7	4	6
3	9	4	1	7	2	8	6	5
7	8	6	5	4	9	1	3	2
1	2	5	8	6	3	4	9	7

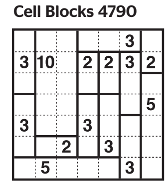
Train Tracks 1942



Sudoku 14,058

8	4	6	1	7	5	9	2	3
1	9	2	3	4	8	6	7	5
3	7	5	9	6	2	1	4	8
2	6	1	4	3	9	8	5	7
5	3	9	8	2	7	4	6	1
4	8	7	5	1	6	2	3	9
9	1	4	6	5	3	7	8	2
7	5	8	2	9	4	3	1	6
6	2	3	7	8	1	5	9	4

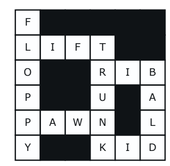
Cell Blocks 4790



Set Square 3443

8	+	4	×	9
+	■	×	■	−
3	×	6	+	7
−	■	÷	■	+
5	×	1	×	2

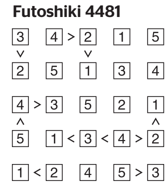
Lexica 6881



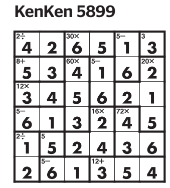
Sudoku 14,059

4	9	1	7	6	3	5	2	8
6	8	5	1	2	9	7	4	3
7	2	3	5	4	8	6	1	9
1	5	8	2	9	7	4	3	6
9	7	4	6	3	5	2	8	1
2	3	6	4	8	1	9	5	7
3	6	9	8	5	4	1	7	2
5	1	2	3	7	6	8	9	4
8	4	7	9	1	2	3	6	5

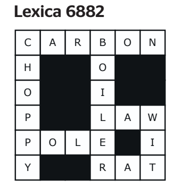
Futoshiki 4481



KenKen 5899



Lexica 6882



Killer 8886

8	9	4	5	2	3	6	7	1
2	5	1	7	6	4	9	3	8
7	6	3	9	8	1	2	4	5
6	8	5	4	1	2	7	9	3
1	2	9	3	5	7	8	6	4
4	3	7	6	9	8	1	5	2
5	4	2	8	7	6	3	1	9
3	7	8	1	4	9	5	2	6
9	1	6	2	3	5	4	8	7

Killer 8887

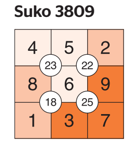
2	8	9	1	6	7	3	5	4
1	7	6	3	4	5	8	9	2
5	3	4	8	2	9	1	7	6
9	5	2	6	7	8	4	1	3
6	4	8	9	1	3	5	2	7
3	1	7	2	5	4	9	6	8
7	9	5	4	8	2	6	3	1
8	2	1	5	3	6	7	4	9
4	6	3	7	9	1	2	8	5

Today's solutions

Concise Quintagram
1 Becky **2** Morsel **3** Frosty **4** Veranda **5** Lutheran

Cryptic Quintagram
1 Word **2** Revel **3** Ingres **4** Taunton **5** Eiderdowns

Suko 3809



Brain Trainer
Easy 36
Medium 324
Harder 1,442

Word watch

Disbosom (b) To reveal (a secret) (*Collins*)
Monoxylon (b) A canoe made from one log (*Chambers*)
Tourmente (c) A whirling eddy of snow (*OED*)

Chess — Winning Move

1 Rh4+ Kg7 and now 2 Rxh7+! leads to carnage: 2 ... Rxh7 (2 ... Kxh6 3 Qxg6 mate) 3 Qxg6+ Kf8 4 Qg8+ Ke7 5 Qxh7+ Kd6 6 Qxf5 and White is three pawns ahead and will win easily

Quiz

1 Roman Empire **2** *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!* **3** Moscow **4** Poet laureate **5** Canada, from kanata **6** Pacific plate **7** Roger Moore **8** Motorcycles **9** Burke and Wills expedition **10** Two Door Cinema Club **11** Handbag **12** Petersburg **13** Michael Sweerts **14** Wrexham AFC **15** Treacle tart

THE TIMES

MindGames

23.05.23

For extra puzzles See page 10

Word watch
David Parfitt

Disbosom
a To pay out
b To reveal (a secret)
c To eviscerate

Monoxylon
a A prehistoric rhinoceros
b A canoe made from one log
c A highly toxic gas

Tourmente
a A glassy gemstone
b A fencing competition
c A whirling eddy of snow

Answers on page 15

Sudoku

Mild No 14,060

4	2						6	9
		6	1		7			2
9	3			1	2	7		
					8	3		
8	7			9	6	4		
		1	2		5			3
6	4						5	8

Difficult No 14,061

								6
			2	9	8	1		
			1	3				
	5	7					4	
	8	6			7			5
	1			8			7	
	2						6	9
			4		5	2		
3				6		5		

Super fiendish No 14,062

		6			8			
	9		6	3		5		
		7	9	4			3	
		5						6
8						3	1	
2	3		4			8	5	
					5	4		8
			1				6	
			2	8				

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

The Times Daily Quiz
Olav Bjortomt

1 The Middle Ages are often said to have begun with the 5th-century collapse of which empire?

2 The Bushtucker Bonanza is an eating trial in which ITV show?

3 Which capital city's Tverskaya Street was formerly named after Maxim Gorky?

4 Walter Scott declined which honorary position in 1813?

5 Which country's name is likely to come from a Huron-Iroquois word meaning "village" or "settlement"?

6 Sharing its name with an ocean, what is the largest of the world's tectonic plates?

ALAMY



7 The Welsh singer Dorothy Squires was the second wife of which James Bond actor?

8 Allen Millyard is a renowned custom builder of which vehicles?

9 The Irish soldier John King was the sole survivor of which ill-fated expedition of 1860-61?

10 Which Northern Irish indie band released the 2010 debut album *Tourist History*?

11 The Simone Museum in Seoul is dedicated to which fashion accessory?

12 The Battle of the Crater (July 30, 1864) took place during the Union's siege of which Virginia city?

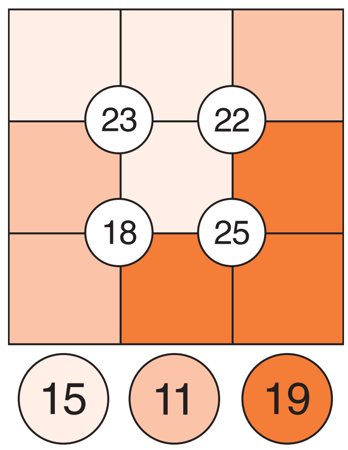
13 *Plague in an Ancient City* (c 1650-52) is a large painting by which Flemish artist?

14 Formed in 1864, what is the oldest professional football club in Wales?

15 Which traditional British dessert is pictured?

Answers on page 15

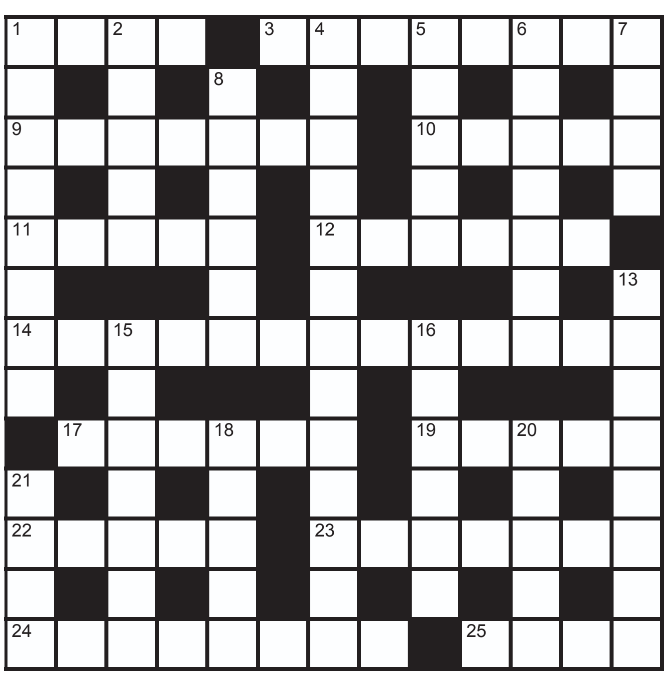
Suko
No 3809



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.co.uk

The Times Quick Cryptic
No 2401 by Mara



Across
1 Society card (4)
3 Killer has got in behind two idiots (8)
9 Punched by right, bewildered Liston gets breathing space (7)
10 Instrument in small room with leader of orchestra (5)
11 Sign on pole installed in grotto, temporarily (5)
12 Feature new deal with it (6)
14 Crunchy snack, man eating raisins primarily with nuts (5,8)
17 Event to talk about, mostly (6)
19 Hawaii or Alaska, say (5)
22 Ape so different, he wrote about tortoise and hare (5)
23 Native of Jaffa for example is right, a lie wrong (7)
24 Part of ship always hidden by raised platform (8)
25 Support in reciprocal manner (4)

Down
1 Path once rebuilt for monument (8)
2 Disturb cheerful group (5)
4 Condiment cut, looking at sauce (5,8)
5 Royal meeting a Highlander (5)
6 Realist awfully cross (7)
7 Twelve certainly not working (4)
8 Brown carries drink for US president (6)
13 Skater is extraordinary star (8)
15 A cleaner in dispute (2,5)
16 Old socialist leader failed Croats (6)
18 Skip exercise when carried by vehicle (5)
20 Zone around northern stadium (5)
21 Entry document I don't know (4)

*Yesterday's solution on page 15**

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